DAILY EXPRESS
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026
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Queen 'so angry' at teenage train attack

SEE PAGES 6&7

BUMPER 12 PAGES OF PUZZLES TO ENJOY

INCLUDES 8-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE TODAY

Dame Esther Rantzen urges public to write to Lords blocking assisted dying law:

'Your compassion and eloquence may at last touch their hearts before it's too late'

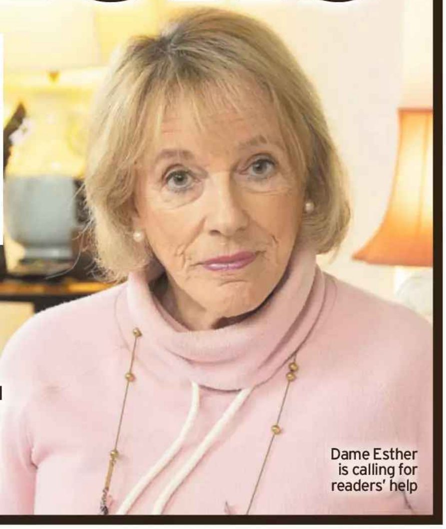
LET THEM HEAR THE TRUTH TO STOP MILLIONS MORE SUFFERING

EXCLUSIVE BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

DAME Esther Rantzen is urging the public to help the assisted dying bill by writing to peers who oppose it.

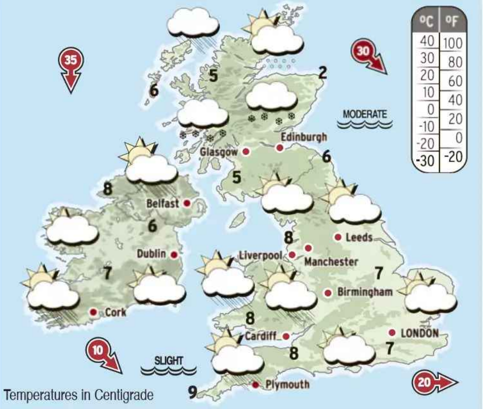
Members of the House of Lords must be reminded of the "pain and suffering" dying people will endure if the landmark legislation fails,

TURN TO PAGE FOUR



Dame Esther is calling for readers' help

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Cloudy and cool, turning fair

North West: Cloudy with light drizzle. Brighter spells later. Breezy and rather cool. High 7C (45F).

Northern Ireland: Unsettled with rain or showers for much of the day. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 6C (43F).

Wales: Cloudy skies dominate. Clearer later with mild breezes. Temperatures staying cool. High 8C (46F).

Midlands: Bright with some sunshine, but also scattered light showers. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 6C (43F).

North East/Yorks: Rain clearing then a dry day with sunshine especially late morning. Light winds. High 6C (43F).

Scotland: Cloudy with sunny intervals later. Breezy with a chill, mostly westerly winds. High 6C (43F).

East Anglia: Dry and bright with sunshine but also patchy cloud. Gentle southerly winds. High 7C (45F).

London/South East: Cloudy skies with occasional clearing later. Breezy with mild temperatures. High 6C (43F).

South: Cloudy with limited brightness but it will remain largely dry. Moderate northerly winds. High 7C (45F).

South West: Cloudy early, clearing for sun later. Moderate winds, temperatures remain cool. High 8C (46F).

Channel Isles: Grey and wet with patchy light rain and drizzle expected. Brisk westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect cloudy skies with occasional sunny spells, cool temperatures, and moderate winds. Possible late afternoon showers in some areas.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	FRI		SAT		SUN		MON		TUE		WED	
	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max
London	-2	5	-3	4	-3	3	-1	3	3	5	5	8
Belfast	1	4	0	4	0	3	2	4	5	7	6	8
Birmingham	-2	4	-3	3	-3	3	0	3	3	5	5	7
Cardiff	-1	6	-2	5	-1	4	1	5	5	7	6	9
Glasgow	-1	4	-1	4	-1	4	2	5	4	6	5	7
Manchester	-2	4	-4	3	-2	3	0	3	4	5	5	7
Newcastle	-1	3	-2	3	-2	2	1	3	3	5	5	7
Norwich	-1	4	-2	3	-2	3	-1	3	2	4	4	7
Plymouth	2	6	0	5	2	5	3	6	6	8	8	10

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	(max)
Aberdeen	3.9	0.00	2	8
Aberporth	0.5	0.00	-5	4
Alnwick	6.2	0.00	-2	6
Belfast	0.0	0.00	-2	4
Birmingham	5.1	0.01	-3	5
B'mouth	6.7	0.00	-5	3
Bristol	2.8	0.00	-1	4
Cardiff	6.4	0.00	-1	5
Durham	4.0	0.01	-3	6
Edinburgh	2.1	0.01	-5	6
Glasgow	0.6	0.00	-4	6
Hull	6.4	0.01	-2	4
Ipswich	6.5	0.01	-1	3
Leeds	4.8	0.00	-1	5
Lincoln	5.7	0.00	-1	5
London	2.9	0.00	-1	3
Manchester	0.1	0.00	-5	5
Oxford	6.4	0.00	-3	5
S'hampton	4.0	0.00	-1	1
St Andrews	5.3	0.00	-4	6

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 1.25pm, sets: 6.28am
SUN rises London: 8.06am, sets: 4.02pm
Manchester rises: 8.25am, sets: 4.00pm

Full Moon
03 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(-), (-)
Liverpool	(-), (-)
Greenock	(-), (-)
Dover	(-), (-)

Britain Extremes:
(24 hours to 11pm Tuesday)

Warmest: South Uist Range 8C (46F)
Coldest: Tyndrum -9C (16F)
Wettest: Wiggonholt 0.25in.
Sunniest: Bournemouth 6.6hr.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.08pm-8.45am
Birmingham	4.04pm-8.17am
Bristol	4.12pm-8.15am
Glasgow	3.54pm-8.47am
London	4.02pm-8.06am
Manchester	4.00pm-8.24am
Newcastle	3.49pm-8.30am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Hail	6C/43F	Amsterdam	Hail	4C/39F
Brussels	Rain	5C/41F	Brussels	Snow	4C/39F
Dublin	Fair	7C/45F	Dublin	Fair	5C/41F
Frankfurt	Cloudy	3C/37F	Frankfurt	Snow	4C/39F
Geneva	Sunny	3C/37F	Geneva	Sunny	3C/37F
Lisbon	Thunder	15C/59F	Lisbon	Thunder	16C/61F
Madrid	Fair	8C/46F	Madrid	Rain	11C/52F
Paris	Cloudy	3C/37F	Paris	Rain	5C/41F
Rome	Showers	12C/54F	Rome	Showers	16C/61F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F
Amsterdam	Cloudy	6	43
Athens	Drizzle	8	46
Barcelona	Drizzle	10	50
Berlin	Sleet	1	34
Budapest	Fair	-1	30
Cairo	Sunny	19	66
Cape Town	Fair	24	75
Casablanca	Thndr	18	64
Corfu	Sunny	11	52
Dublin	Fair	3	37
Dubrovnik	Sunny	3	37
Faro	Cloudy	14	57
Florence	Sunny	10	50
Gibraltar	Cloudy	14	57
Guernsey	Cloudy	7	45
Hong Kong	Fair	20	68
Istanbul	Cloudy	3	37
Jersey	Cloudy	6	43
Larnaca	Thndr	19	66
Las Palmas	Sunny	20	68
Los Angeles	Rain	19	66
Luxor	Sunny	21	70
Malaga	Fair	13	55
Mallorca	Fair	13	55
Malta	Thndr	14	57
Melbourne	Fair	17	63
Miami	Sunny	18	64
Moscow	Snow	-7	19
Nairobi	Sunny	24	75
New Delhi	Fair	12	54
New York	-	0	32
Nice	Sunny	12	54
Nicosia	Thndr	14	57
Perth	Sunny	32	90
Prague	Snow	-2	28
Singapore	Fair	29	84
Stockholm	Sunny	-5	23
Sydney	Fair	24	75
Tel Aviv	Fair	18	64
Tenerife	Fair	22	72
Toronto	Cloudy	-5	23
Tunis	Fair	15	59
Venice	Fair	5	41
Vienna	-	0	32
Warsaw	Snow	-4	25

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Isis bride 'must never come back'

Philp demands Begum's ban stays in place

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**
AND **AARON NEWBURY**

TOP Tory Chris Philp is to demand assurances that Isis terror bride Shamima Begum must never be allowed to return to the UK – whatever European judges say.

Opposition politicians warned the European Court of Human Rights is putting the public at risk by asking the Home Office to justify its decision to strip the Islamic State fanatic of her British citizenship.

Mr Philp, Conservative Shadow Home Secretary, will press for promises that Begum, 26, will be kept out of the country, when he raises the case in Parliament on Monday.

He said: "Begum chose to go and support the violent Islamist extremists of Daesh, who murdered opponents, raped thousands of women and girls and threw people off buildings for being gay. She has no place in the UK." Reform leader Nigel Farage said: "It's outrageous a major decision like this of national interest can be made in the ECtHR – it shows why we must leave. She must not be allowed back."

Shamima Begum joined terrorists aged 15

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has vowed to fight any bid by judges in Strasbourg to overturn the 2019 decision to remove Begum's British citizenship and ban her from the UK, a move upheld by the Supreme Court.

Begum left her east London home in 2015 aged 15 to join Islamic State in Syria, where she lives in a detention camp. However, Labour remains committed to membership of the European Convention on Human Rights, enforced by the ECtHR.

The Express revealed the court has demanded the British government explains whether exiling Begum broke human rights and anti-trafficking laws.

The Home Office said: "The government will always protect the UK and its citizens.

"That is why Shamima Begum – who posed a national security threat – had her British citizenship revoked and is unable to return to the UK.

"We will robustly defend any decision made to protect our national security."

MORE CHRISTMAS GIFTS ARE RETURNED THAN ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

CHRISTMAS presents will be returned at a higher rate than people who came to the UK illegally on small boats, the Conservatives have claimed.

Home Office data shows more than 57,400 people had arrived that way since Labour came to power but only 2,852 had been removed.

The Conservatives said this removal rate of around 5% is lower than that for returning Christmas gifts - 6.5%, according to Which?. A Labour source said: "This Labour government has returned nearly 50,000 illegal migrants since taking office - around a quarter more than the Tories managed."

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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OPINION **12** TV **33** LETTERS **38** STARS **40** CITY **41** SPORT **43** **PLUS** PUZZLES PULLOUT

The Harbour Bridge and Opera House in Sydney, Australia

It's a colourful and cold start to 2026

Celebrations in Southend and Beijing, below

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

WHILE Australians were having a blast with their New Year summer celebrations, Britons wrapped up for a very fresh start to 2026 - with several cold weather warnings issued.

The alerts from the UK Health Security Agency were upgraded to amber yesterday, and cover the whole of England until Monday.

Meanwhile, the Met Office issued a snow and ice warning for Scotland today - with another covering a large swathe of Wales and England tomorrow. Up to 5cm of snow is forecast across a 250-mile band from Cheshire to Kent.

The bone-chilling temperatures didn't stop millions of people getting out to celebrate the new year, though, with hundreds of thousands at the River Thames countdown in London and the traditional Hogmanay party in Edinburgh.

Public events were also held in other cities, including Cardiff, Manchester, Leeds, *right*, Sheffield, Birmingham and Southend. The first major city in the world to see in 2026 was Auckland, in New Zealand, which celebrated with a spectacular fireworks display above the 328-metre Sky Tower.

In Australia, more than a million people gathered at the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which was lit up in white as a symbol of peace and unity following the Bondi Beach massacre that left 15 dead on December 14.

Events were later held in China, Japan and South Korea, India and Sri Lanka, before moving to Europe and the Americas. But the very first place to ring in 2026 was Kiribati, an island country in the central Pacific Ocean. It used to have several time zones until the government moved the international date line 620 miles east so all of the islands are in the same zone.

The 26-hour span between the first place to welcome 2026 and the last meant that dedicated clock watchers were able to toast the arrival of the new year 38 times.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Our 90-minute Eurostar trip took 11 hours

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

HUNDREDS of Eurostar passengers were stranded for more than 12 hours on trains after the Channel Tunnel power outage.

Some were even evacuated off blacked-out, powerless trains, with no working toilets, food or water, and forced to walk through eerie tunnels to reach safety.

Passenger Ghislain Planque said his Tuesday night Eurostar journey from London to France was meant to take just under 90 minutes but instead was 11 hours, with passengers stuck overnight in the train with intermittent power.

He said: "We were left without electricity – so with no heating, no air-conditioning, no possibility to charge phones. We were in total darkness for some of the time."

LeShuttle passenger Tim Brown said he had been stuck in his car on the train at the Calais terminal for more than three hours with "no access to food or water".

Mr Brown said: "The fact nobody came around offering everybody a bottle of water shocked me the most." Eurostar had axed all London to Europe services when an overhead power supply problem and a failed train blocked all routes.

Some services resumed on the single available line on Tuesday night but were still delayed when Eurostar faced further problems overnight.

Yesterday, repair work allowed journeys through the tunnel in both directions although some services early in the day were delayed.

Travel expert Simon Calder said: "Eurostar and LeShuttle generally run pretty smoothly. But when it goes wrong, it goes very wrong indeed."

Passengers wait at St Pancras, London

'For too long, the voices of people who are dying have been missing from the heart of this debate'

FROM PAGE ONE

the veteran broadcaster and campaigner said. The Lords are due to resume scrutiny this new year following months of intense debate in both Houses of Parliament.

If the bill succeeds it could finally bring a change in the law this spring to give terminally ill people end-of-life choice.

But supporters fear hardline opponents will continue tabling hundreds of unreasonable amendments to run down the clock.

Heartbreaking accounts of bad deaths and lonely journeys to Dignitas helped to persuade MPs in 2025 that a more compassionate law is desperately needed.

Now Dame Esther, 85, is urging those affected to write to peers and share their personal stories once more.

She writes in the Daily Express today: "Your compassion and eloquence may at last touch their hearts before it's too late."

Sarah Wootton, chief executive of the campaign group Dignity in Dying, said Dame Esther's call to action "could not be more urgent and timely".

She added: "For too long the voices of people who are dying, and those who love them, have been missing from the heart of this debate.

"Yet it is their lived experience of the current law that exposes its cruelty most clearly: forcing terminally ill people to suffer against their will, or to consider lonely, traumatic journeys abroad at the end of their lives."

Writing to members of the House of Lords is "not about politics or ideology – it is about compassion", Ms Wootton said.

She added: "As Dame Esther says, personal stories have the power to cut through abstract arguments and reach people at a human level.

"Many peers have never had to sit at the bedside of someone begging for choice and control as death approaches.

"Hearing directly from those who have lived this reality may finally help them understand what is at stake."

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, introduced in 2024 by backbench Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, has reached committee stage in the House of Lords.

This means peers are debating amendments that could improve the legislation.

However, the bill will become law only if both Houses can agree on the final wording before the current session of Parliament ends this spring.

Supporters claim the process is being hijacked by staunch opponents who have tabled the majority of more than 1,000 amendments in a bid to ensure the bill runs out of time.

However, opponents claim they are merely fulfilling their role and providing thorough scrutiny of a complex piece of legislation.

Following slow progress during the first four days of debate in November and December, an extra 10 days were allocated for 2026, bringing the total to 16 days.

Despite the delay, Ms Wootton said the country was now "closer than ever to law reform". She added: "Public support for assisted dying is overwhelming, medical opinion is shifting, and parliamentarians across parties recognise that the status quo is failing dying people and their families.

"With New York just becoming the 14th US state to legalise assisted dying, bills progressing in Westminster, Scotland and Jersey, and reform already passed in the Isle of Man, the momentum is undeniable.

"Now is the time, this year is the moment, and 2026 must be when the UK finally delivers change.

"Progress is never inevitable – it depends on courage, persistence and the willingness of those affected to speak out.

Courage

"Because they are the engine of this campaign, driving it forward with courage, honesty and compassion. So to anyone who has experienced the impact of the current law: your voice matters.

"Your story could help ensure that no one else is forced to endure unnecessary suffering at the end of life. As we look ahead, this is a moment to stand up for dignity and choice – and to help shape a fairer law for future generations."

The voices of terminally ill people and

EXPRESS VOTE

Will 2026 be the year where assisted dying is finally legalised?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441
Calls cost 50p plus network access charge

Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
Texts cost 50p plus standard network rate

You must have the bill payer's permission. Vote closes at midnight tonight. The Daily Express may contact you by post, SMS and/or email with offers, goods or services that may be of interest to you. To stop receiving SMS messages text 'NSNOINFO' to the originating number. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

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COULD NOT BE MORE URGENT BECAUSE...

Dear Express readers,
I wonder if I could ask you for another great favour?

If you have experienced the cruel impact of the current criminal law upon someone you love, could you possibly write to a member of the House of Lords describing what happened?

If you Google "Hansard, House of Lords Assisted Dying Bill" you will find the names of those who have opposed it, and you can write to them directly at the House of Lords.

Sadly, many of them really do not understand the pain and suffering they are causing, and they are putting down amendments just to prevent the bill being passed by the House of Commons, which is not how the Lords are supposed to work.

And in this filibuster they are condemning millions more to suffer.

They need to hear the truth from you.

Your compassion and eloquence may at last touch their hearts before it's too late.

Thank you and have a very good New Year.
Esther xxxx

Dame Esther Rantzen issues a heartfelt plea to readers of your campaigning Daily Express

EXPRESS CRUSADE
GIVE US OUR LAST RIGHTS

those who have seen loved ones suffer at the end of life have been highlighted for four years by the Express Give Us Our Last Rights crusade.

And they were at the heart of Ms Leadbeater's campaign when she passionately made the case for change before MPs.

The Labour MP for Spen Valley told the Express: "Throughout the long and difficult process of seeing my bill pass successfully through the House of Commons in 2025 and move on to the House of Lords, I have always kept terminally ill people and their families at the centre of my thoughts. If the bill were to be blocked by peers in 2026, despite having overwhelming popular support and the backing of MPs, it would be a tragedy for all those who are depending on Parliament to pass this important piece of legislation."

Choice

Ms Leadbeater said she had no doubt that peers who listen to the public "with an open heart and a clear head" will recognise the urgent need to give terminally ill people greater choice at the end of their lives.

She added: "I have repeatedly asked members of the House of Lords to listen to their voices.

"Some have done so and were deeply moved by what they heard. But sadly many haven't.

"So I would appeal to them – before it's too late – to take the opportunity of meeting some of those brave individuals personally."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Sarah Wootton, head of Dignity in Dying

William, the King and Princess Royal behind the scenes at Trooping the Colour

A year of duty...and some right royal fun

BY **REBECCA RUSSELL**

A YEAR of family, duty and national pride is reflected in a series of images shared by the Prince and Princess of Wales showing some of their favourite moments of 2025.

Highlights from the 12 photos include William in a bearskin hat behind the scenes at Trooping the Colour in June.

Palace

The prince, who rode on horseback at the ceremony as Colonel of the Welsh Guards, is pictured alongside the King and the Princess Royal, both also in uniform, as they spoke to senior members of household staff in the Quadrangle of Buckingham Palace.

Also featured was William and Catherine's two-day visit to the Isle of Mull in Scotland in April.

The princess got stuck in during a visit to Ardura Community Forest, where the couple's chosen photo shows her crouched on the floor and smiling as she looks through a pair of binoculars made from two toilet rolls.

Catherine used the visit to speak about how important it is for children to "get outdoors as much as they can".

William's visit to the Welsh Guards Christmas party at their barracks in Windsor was the December photo, showing the prince laughing with officers around a bottle-strewn table.

Catherine enjoys a forest day out in Mull, above; William joins the Welsh Guards party, left

First new passports are out

THE first batch of new British passports featuring the King's coat of arms and landscapes are in use.

Some 300 of the newly designed travel documents are in circulation, bearing His Majesty's emblem on the front. Pages inside depict nature spots from the four nations – Scotland's Ben Nevis, the Lake District in England, Three Cliffs Bay in Wales and the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland.

With the new passports having holographic and other anti-forgery features, Migration and Citizenship Minister Mike Tapp said: "They are the most secure British passports ever produced."

QUEEN MEETS CROSSBOW

BY **REBECCA RUSSELL**
Deputy Royal Editor

THE Queen has spoken publicly for the first time about being assaulted as a teenager, as she joined racing commentator John Hunt and his daughter Amy for a discussion on violence against women.

Camilla described how the assault, which happened on a train, left her "so angry".

She praised the pair for their courage and their charity work after Mr Hunt's wife Carol and daughters Louise and Hannah were murdered in a horrific crossbow attack at their home.

And she told them their loved ones would be proud of them.

Camilla said on the recording, aired on BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "It had been lurking in the back of my brain for a very long time, when I was a teenager, I was attacked on a train, and I'd sort of forgotten about it, but I remember at the time being so angry.

Furious

"I was reading my book, and you know, this boy, man, attacked me, and I did fight back.

"And I remember getting off the train and my mother looking at me and saying 'Why is your hair standing on end?' and 'Why is a button missing from your coat?'.

"But I remember anger, and I was so furious about it, and it's sort of lurked for many years.

"And I think when the subject of domestic abuse came up, and suddenly you hear a story like John and Amy's, it's something that I feel very strongly about."

Louise Hunt, 25, her sister Hannah, 28, and their mother Carol, 61, were killed by Kyle Clifford, 27 – Louise's ex-partner – at their house in Bushey, Hertfordshire, on July 9, 2024.

Mr Hunt and Amy set up The Hunt Family Fund in memory of Carol, Louise and Hannah to raise money for charities and causes that help and inspire young women.

After hearing the Queen share the story, Amy said: "Thank you for sharing that story first, Your Majesty, because that takes a lot to share these things because every woman has a story."

The incident was first recounted in the book Power and the Palace: The Inside Story of the Monarchy and 10 Downing Street by Valentine Low, a former royal reporter for The Times. It told how the man touched the then-teenage Camilla Shand and that she hit him with the heel of her shoe.

When she arrived in London, she reported the incident to station staff and the man was arrested, the book reported.

Camilla did "what my mother taught me" and took off her shoe to fend off the man as she travelled to London's Paddington station in the early 1960s when aged 16 or 17, it was previously reported.

The conversation formed part of a wider discussion about combating sexual and domestic violence and the power of talking about experiences and trauma. It was recorded in the Garden Room at Clarence House in November.

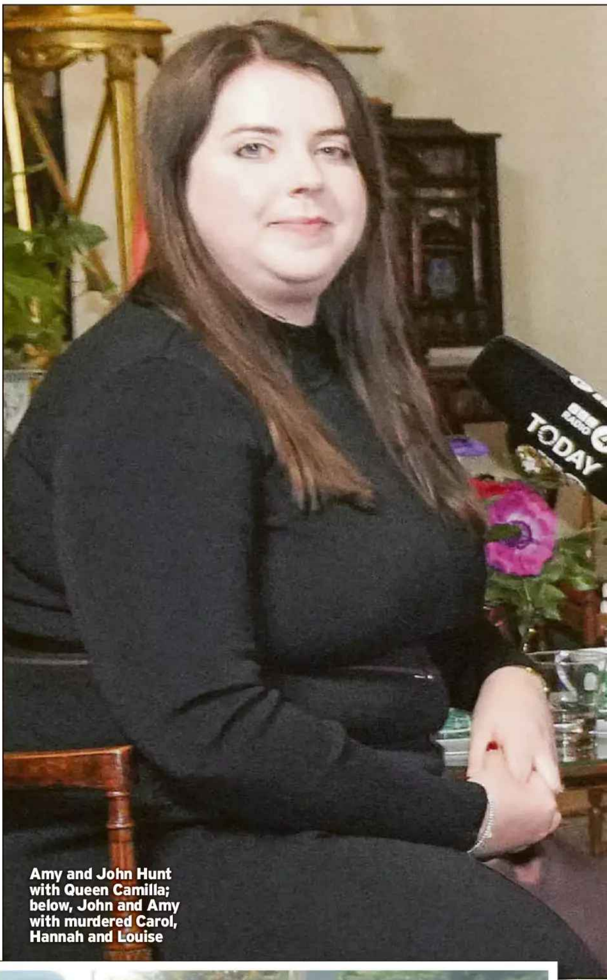
Former Prime minister Baroness Theresa May also took part, and the discussion was chaired by BBC broadcaster Emma Barnett.

Strength

Camilla paid tribute to the Hunts in the moving broadcast.

She told them: "I'd just like to say, wherever your family is now, they'd be so proud of you both.

"And they must be from above smiling down on you and thinking, my goodness me, what a wonder-



Amy and John Hunt with Queen Camilla; below, John and Amy with murdered Carol, Hannah and Louise

HORROR FAMILY AND TELLS OF ASSAULT

EXPRESS EXTRA
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‘I was attacked on a train as a teenager...I remember at the time being so angry’

ful, wonderful father, husband, sister. They’d just be so proud of you both.” Mr Hunt, who joined the BBC in 2004, said 18 months after his family was killed it “remains really difficult minute-by- minute”.

He added: “But you have to try and find the strength in our position to arm yourself with as many tools as possible that are going to help you get through that next hour, get through that next day.

“At the risk of embarrassing Amy, she’s been my best counsel from the word go. We talk all the time. I used to say ‘I couldn’t do it without you’, but now I say ‘I can do it with you’.” Amy added: “I think there’s a huge part of us that’s still in disbelief, in shock. Perhaps we’ll be in that state for the rest of our lives, given the magnitude of our loss. We miss them every single minute of the day.”

The Queen, 78, spoke of how she previously went to a meeting of charity SafeLives and heard the stories of women who had been killed or attacked.

She added: “I remember being just so shocked and horrified by the whole thing, and there wasn’t a dry eye in the place. It made me realise how naive I’d been about this sort of thing. I mean, we read about it occasionally in the papers but we do not realise that it is happening all the time.”

Camilla also spoke about the importance of working with potential future perpetrators of violence against women and girls early on and teaching them respect.

Abusive

She said: “We’ve got to get to the root of the matter, the perpetrators, especially when they’re young.

“They may have come from a circle, they may have had parents or relatives who’ve been abusive or done terrible things to them, and so they’re almost brought up to believe that it’s a natural thing to do. If you can get them early enough and teach them respect for women...I think that’s so important to get into schools.”

Amy added that the radicalisation of men by other men is a “huge problem”.

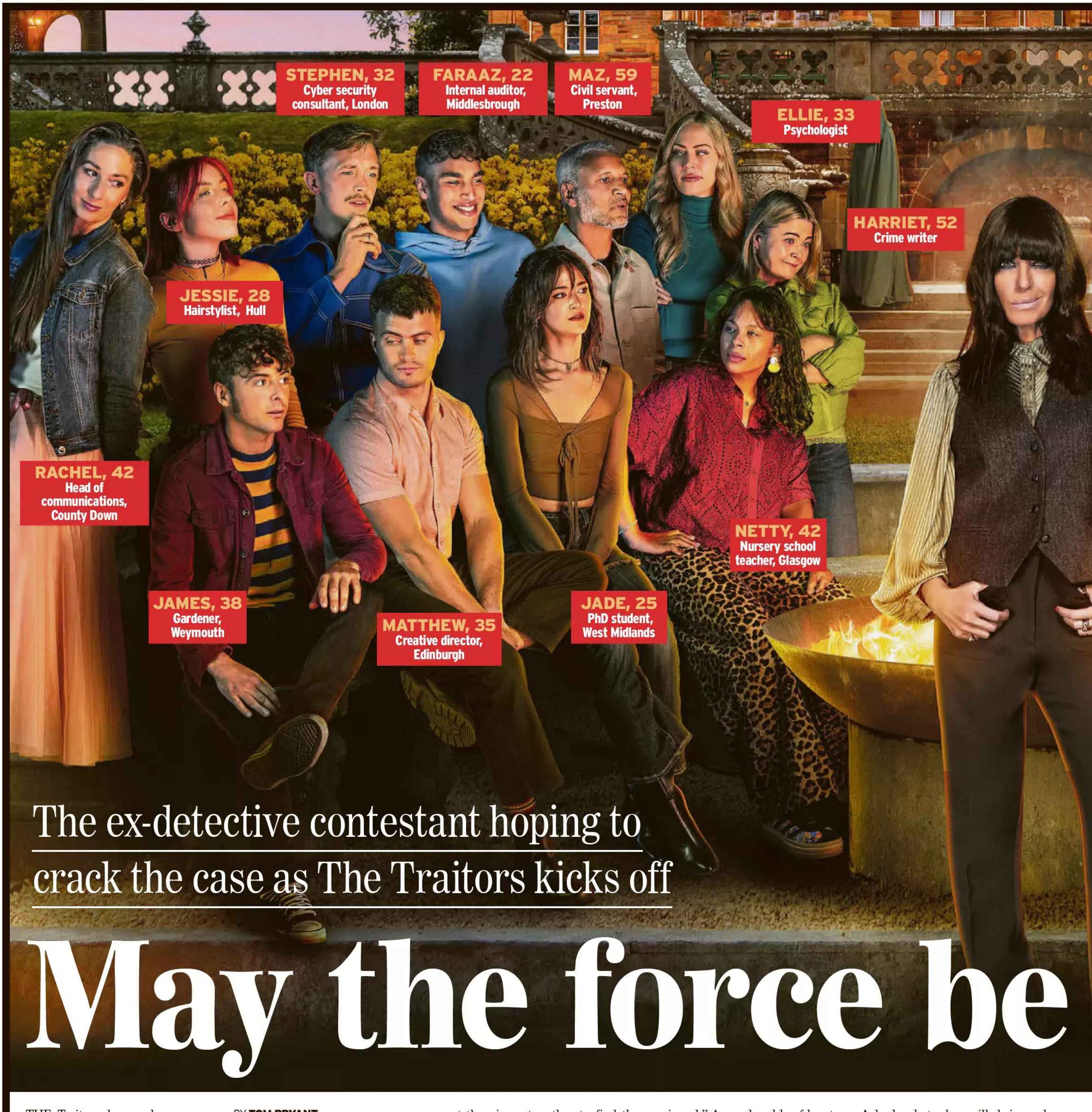
She said: “Unfortunately, it’s something that largely goes unchecked in these tech companies and social media companies. It’s somewhat allowed to run rampant.

“I suppose, if men have not had the best examples in life when they reach out to an online space looking for guidance and for some sort of mentor, these men in the online spaces such as Andrew Tate and his ilk, they provide that, and they provide easy answers.”

Baroness May said: “We’ve introduced the Online Safety Act here in the UK. It’s an attempt to do something to protect people from what goes online.”

She added: “But over the years, I’ve had many conversations in my time in government with the platforms, with the companies, to try and urge them to see the importance of the social responsibility, of the impact of what is going across their platforms.”

OPINION: PAGE 12


STEPHEN, 32
Cyber security consultant, London
FARAAZ, 22
Internal auditor, Middlesbrough
MAZ, 59
Civil servant, Preston
ELLIE, 33
Psychologist
HARRIET, 52
Crime writer
JESSIE, 28
Hairstylist, Hull
RACHEL, 42
Head of communications, County Down
NETTY, 42
Nursery school teacher, Glasgow
JAMES, 38
Gardener, Weymouth
MATTHEW, 35
Creative director, Edinburgh
JADE, 25
PhD student, West Midlands

The ex-detective contestant hoping to crack the case as The Traitors kicks off

May the force be

BY **TOM BRYANT**

THE Traitors bosses have assembled the most impressive crack-team of contestants so far – including a retired detective chief inspector, a barrister turned crime writer and a psychologist.

Insiders believe the unique make-up of the 22-strong group will ensure the fourth non-celebrity series – which kicks off tonight, hosted by Claudia Winkleman – will be the most competitive ever.

One BBC executive said: “Given the crime-solving attributes of some of those picked, it might make the job of being a Traitor much harder. But at the same time such qualities could equally make them the perfect Traitor so it’s very much all to play for.”

Former police detective chief inspector Amanda admits skills she gained in the force could give her a distinctive edge. The 57-year-old from Brighton “learned a lot about being deceptive, devious and cunning” in the job.

She says: “I was a detective, and I’ve done lots of interviews with criminals and victims. You have to put the pieces together to find the truth and see through the lies. To be a Traitor, you have to be good at lying, have a good poker face and be a master of deflection to prevent you being identified.

Relaxed

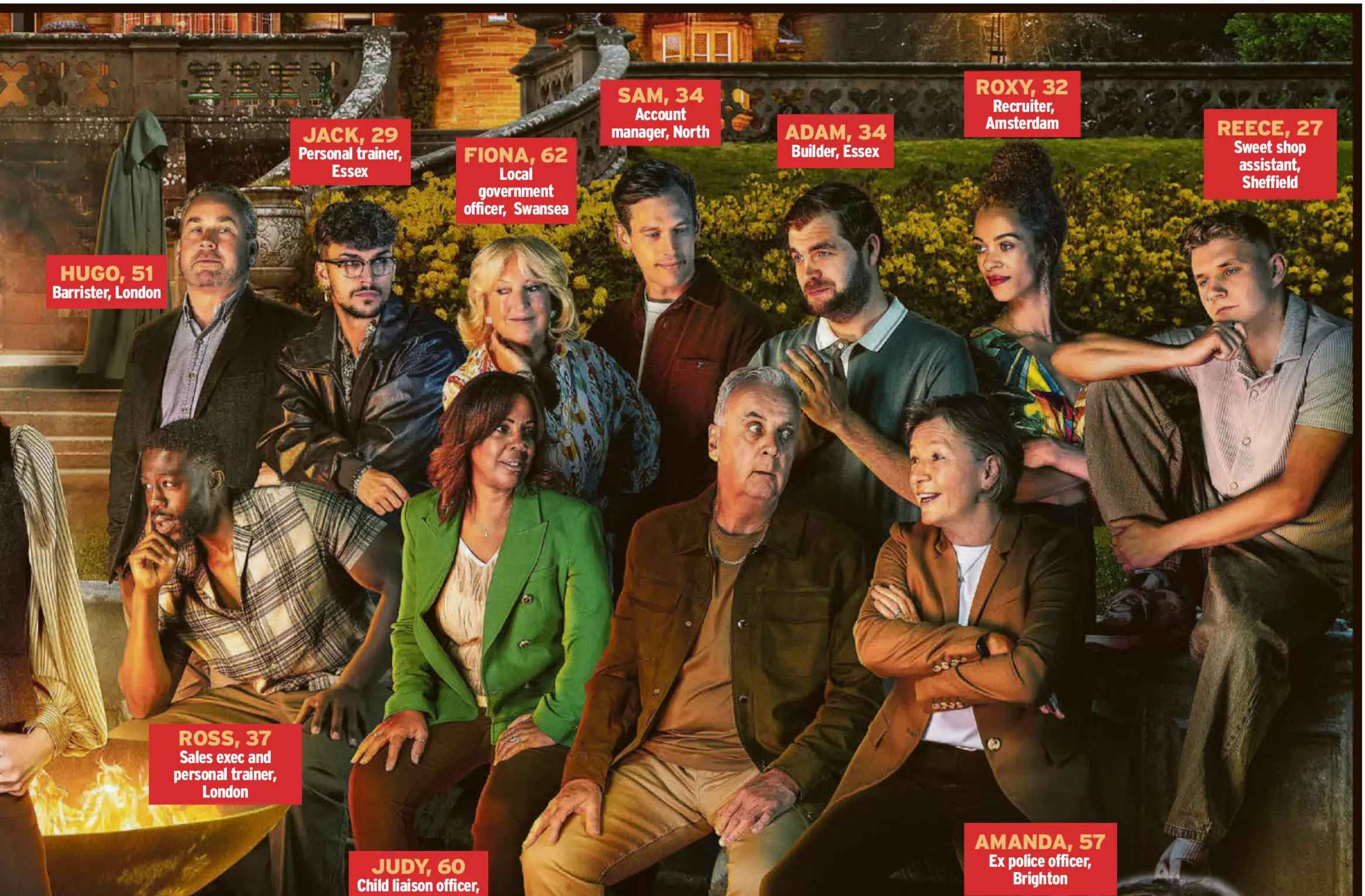
“On the other side of the coin I am a good person and I became a police officer to help people.

“You have to be nice and calm, even when there’s a big storm around you. I’d bring all these skills into the game, whichever role I am assigned.” Amanda adds of her top police role: “I had to do lots of things very quickly, be decisive and precise but I’m very relaxed now.”

Psychologist Ellie, 33, from London, reckons she also has all the skills to triumph on the BBC show.

She says: “I think I might be the first psychologist on the show, so I’m hoping I can bring that psychological perspective. I’m going to be analysing what other contestants are doing and trying to think through what their motivations are for behaving in certain ways.” Asked what she will bring, she adds: “Hopefully, I’m going to be able to use all my psychological techniques to play the game as well as possible, whether I’m a Traitor or a Faithful, whether that’s building up relationships with people or deceiving people and concealing how I really feel.”

Crime writer Harriet Tyce, whose books include Blood Orange and The Lies You Told, worked as a criminal barrister before becoming an author and believes she has an advantage when it comes to cracking who is who. The 52-year-old


HUGO, 51
Barrister, London
JACK, 29
Personal trainer, Essex
FIONA, 62
Local government officer, Swansea
SAM, 34
Account manager, North
ADAM, 34
Builder, Essex
ROXY, 32
Recruiter, Amsterdam
REECE, 27
Sweet shop assistant, Sheffield
ROSS, 37
Sales exec and personal trainer, London
JUDY, 60
Child liaison officer, Doncaster
BEN, 66
Retired, Hampshire
AMANDA, 57
Ex police officer, Brighton

with me...

admits: "I've watched the show and love it – it's one of the very few TV shows that I think I have a skill set that could be useful for. I spend my life making up horrible ways for people to die and killing people on the page.

"The idea that I might get to actually plot to kill people or to track down a murderer, but, you know, without actual blood being shed, it's the closest that I'd get to that experience in real life. So quite honestly, what's not to like?" The mum of two believes her legal background will enable her to rumble liars – as will having kids.

She says: "I've had experience of clients who I've been absolutely certain are telling me slightly less than the truth."

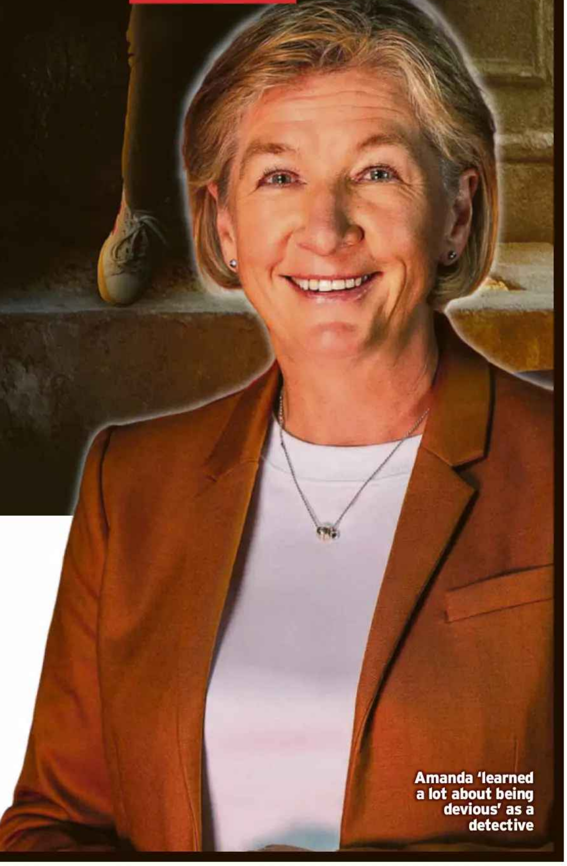
And she adds: "The thing that is very liberating about this game is that if you are going into it not believing anybody, then you're not going to get caught out by someone seeming to be lovely."

The Traitors begins today at 8pm on BBC One and iPlayer

Meanwhile London-based barrister Hugo, 51, is also tipped to do well. He says: "I have to stand up in front of a jury and be a kind of big cuddly teddy bear, so you have to believe what you're saying because people can pick up if you're all fidgety."

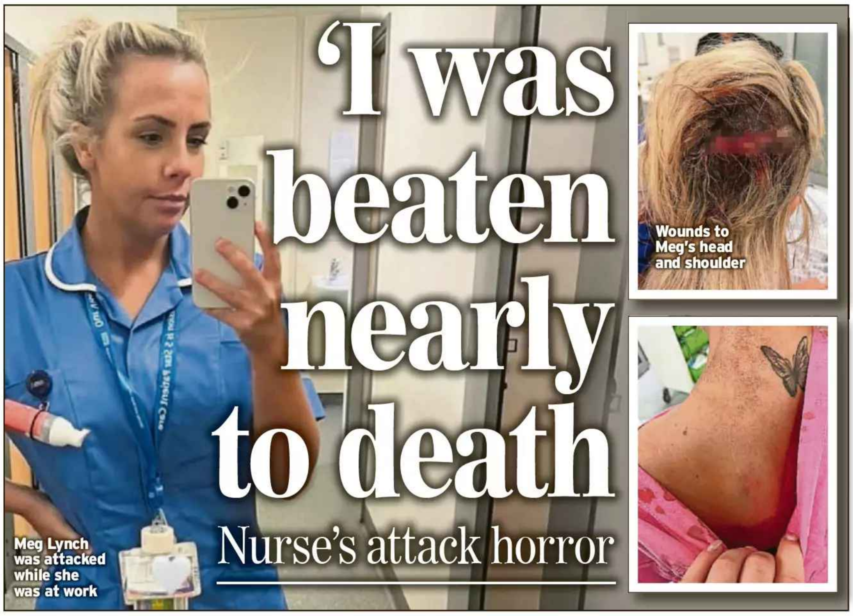
Last year's series was won by Faithfuls Jake Brown and Leanne Quigley, Traitor Harry Clark triumphed in 2024 and Faithfuls Aaron Evans, Hannah Byczkowski and Meryl Williams shared the pot in 2023. Traitor Alan Carr won the celebrity version in November.

TOURIST HOTSPOT: PAGES 16&17


Amanda 'learned a lot about being devious' as a detective

‘I was beaten nearly to death

Nurse’s attack horror



Meg Lynch was attacked while she was at work

Wounds to Meg’s head and shoulder

BY **CIARAN MCGRATH**

A BRAVE nurse has told of the gruesome wounds inflicted during a terrifying crowbar rampage at a hospital, allegedly carried out by a 20-year-old Afghan man.

District nurse Meg Lynch was “beaten nearly to death” in an unprovoked onslaught that left five others injured and the local community reeling.

The horror unfolded just after midday on Tuesday at Newton Community Hospital in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, when the suspect reportedly flew into a rage after his request for medical attention was declined.

Police said the man, originally from Afghanistan and living locally, became “increasingly agitated” when asked to leave.

Lacerations

He allegedly smashed a reception counter before assaulting staff and patients with what officers believe was a crowbar.

Six people needed treatment for head lacerations and limb injuries; while none were life-threatening.

The suspect was arrested on five counts of Section 18 wounding with intent.

Ms Lynch, who had been using a vending machine at the time of the attack, recounted the nightmare in a Facebook post.

She said: “I was attacked at work...beaten nearly to death with a crowbar by an unknown man, who started attacking me from behind. After a few blows to the head, I ran, I hid and did what I could do, to get a door between me and him.” She credits her quick thinking for saving her life, adding: “I’m so, so lucky I’m still alive.”

She wrote: “I honestly don’t know why this man did this to me and other workers.”

Witnesses painted a scene of pandemonium. Sugedaran Shanmugaraja, working at the nearby Best One shop, said a blood-soaked woman burst in, begging him to call the police. “I could see blood and she said somebody was attacking everybody.” Officers swarmed the site with 10 to 15 vehicles, arresting the man on suspicion of wounding, affray and criminal damage.

Bravery

He was later detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, allowing police to hold him for assessment. Superintendent Sarah Rotherham, of Merseyside Police, said: “Officers attended immediately and the male was swiftly located and arrested.”

Councillor Seve Gomez-Aspron, whose father lives next door, hailed the emergency services’ bravery but cautioned against speculation.

“It’s a shock, but we need to await the full facts,” he said.

The attack has ignited fierce debate online, with social media figures amplifying images of Ms Lynch’s injuries to criticise immigration policies.

Starmer: Life is still tough going under Labour

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

SIR KEIR Starmer admitted that life remains “tough” for families across Britain in his gloomy New Year’s message.

Nearly 18 months after winning power, Sir Keir said voters still “long for a bit more money in your pockets” but predicted 2026 would be when people feel “a sense of hope”.

The Prime Minister, *below*, said: “Things have been tough in Britain for a while. For many, life is still harder than it should be.”

Values

He added: “I share the frustration. The challenges we face were decades in the making.” But he promised: “In 2026, more people will feel once again a sense of hope.”

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said her team was working on policies to “back business and fix our economy”.

Reform UK’s Nigel Farage said: “We may well be the last chance this country has to restore some proper values.”

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Campaigners at the Houses of Parliament last year are now launching an 'email your MP' drive

'Waspi' women prepare to 'fight harder than ever for the justice we deserve'

BY **KATIE HARRIS**
Senior Political Correspondent

CAMPAIGNERS aim to send one million emails to MPs demanding compensation for women affected by an increase in the state pension age.

The Women Against State Pension Inequality group is calling on supporters to write to their MPs and urge them to back their calls for payouts.

The fresh push in the long-running campaign comes as the government is reconsidering a decision to reject compensation and is due to report back by the end of next month.

Waspi said 3.6 million women born in the 1950s were not properly informed of plans to increase the state pension age to bring them into line with men.

Outrage

Waspi chair Angela Madden said: "Waspi women are prepared to fight harder than ever to seek the justice we deserve over the next few weeks.

"But we are not just asking 1950s women themselves to help.

"We need everyone who backs us to get involved in a Herculean effort to make this an issue no MP can ignore.

"This really is crunch time. We need every MP making it clear that ministers are in the last chance saloon.

"If they again ignore the parliamentary ombudsman's recommendations, they risk a humiliating tsunami of national outrage and further legal action."

A 2024 report by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman suggested compensation between £1,000 and £2,950 for those affected.

The government accepted the ombudsman's findings that the group were not adequately informed about changes to the state pension age and apologised. But it dismissed recommendations for payouts which could cost taxpayers up to £10.5billion.

Silver Voices director Dennis Reed said: "This is another screeching U-turn the government must make.

"To put two fingers up to their own Parliamentary Ombudsman, who recommended compensation for the 1950s women, reveals an arrogant contempt for democracy and legal protest. All power to Waspi in their fight for justice for these three million older women. We will urge our members to write to their MPs."

Jan Shortt, of the National Pensioners Convention, added: "The government's recent promise to revisit the Waspi compensation decision is a welcome step but justice for 1950s-born women requires far more.

"These women planned their lives around a state pension age that was abruptly and unfairly shifted, leaving many in severe financial difficulty and emotional distress.

Rights

"The government must demonstrate real commitment by delivering the meaningful compensation they are long overdue. It must also show confidence in their ombudsman as the system for protecting our rights.

"We will be urging our NPC members to write to their MPs."

The Department for Work and Pensions said: "Last month we committed to retake the decision and as set out, we will do so within three months. This should not be taken as an indication that government will necessarily decide it should award financial compensation."

● *To send an email, visit waspi.co.uk/getting-involved/waspi-map/*

COMMENT

ANGELA MADDEN

Chair of Women Against State Pension Inequality

FOR more than a decade, Waspi women – affected by the government's failure to notify them of increases to their state pension age – have fought a Herculean battle for justice.

Time and again, ministers have batted us away, assuming we would lose hope. But how wrong they were.

This generation of women born in the 1950s is more determined than ever before. Despite the Parliamentary Ombudsman recommending compensation be paid, the government chose to ignore their independent investigation, which took six years to complete.

A successful legal challenge by campaigners late last year was needed to force a government U-turn, with ministers agreeing to reconsider all the evidence and update Parliament by the end of February.

We know that hundreds of MPs support us, as do millions of people across the country. To demonstrate this, we are launching a national letter-writing campaign, calling on everyone to write to their MP, asking them to lobby the Work and Pensions Secretary to think again.

Our aim is for one million emails to be sent to MPs in the coming weeks. This is no easy feat but everyone knows an affected woman – whether she is a wife, mother, sister or friend.

If Keir Starmer wants to turn over a new leaf, he ought to put justice for Waspi women at the top of his New Year's resolutions list.

Business and investors hit under Labour

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

LABOUR has been accused of creating a "hostile environment" for investors, with Chancellor Rachel Reeves also "shattering" business confidence with her tax hikes.

The UK has the worst investment levels in the G7 group, the latest figures show.

Public and private investment was just 18.6% in the three months to September.

This puts the UK far behind Japan (27.4% of GDP), Canada (22.8%), and Italy (22.5%).

The Federation of Small Businesses has warned sentiment is "closer to dismay than confidence".

Shadow Business Secretary Andrew Griffith said: "Rachel Reeves has shattered business and consumer confidence. It's little wonder investment in Britain is stagnant."

A government spokesman said: "We are investing in our economic future, with over £120billion more in capital investment compared to previous plans."

Profits boost for energy companies

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

ENERGY firms can rake in an extra £45million after Ofgem increased the amount of pure profit that can be added to energy bills.

Small print in Ofgem's latest energy price cap announcement shows the figure has risen to £44 for the average household paying by direct debit, amounting to £1.276billion in total.

The new price cap starts today, with average bills up £3 to £1,758.

The Ofgem price cap, which is the maximum amount energy suppliers can charge households on a standard variable tariff, includes a figure called the Earnings Before Interest and Tax allowance, which covers profit margins.

Simon Francis, of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, said: "To see supplier profit allowances rising faster than the Ofgem price cap doesn't seem fair."

Minister for Energy Consumers Martin McCluskey said the government is "taking £150 of costs off energy bills from April".

DAILY EXPRESS

One Canada Square, London E14 5AP
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Peers should be giving everyone last rights

IT'S been four years since the Express launched the Give Us Our Last Rights campaign, calling for people facing the end of their lives to have a choice about how they die.

Debate has taken place in the pages of this newspaper and others, on the airwaves and in Parliament.

Supporters of change, championed by Dame Esther Rantzen, called for reforms to ensure fewer people are forced to endure painful and undignified deaths or make lonely journeys to Dignitas.

Opposing arguments were also heard, as, of course, they should be. And when the time came to decide, the verdict of our elected MPs was clear.

The Commons voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, introduced by backbencher Kim Leadbeater.

Now, however, it is feared that delaying tactics in the House of Lords will be used to frustrate the will of the Commons.

A deluge of amendments may be used to run down the clock and ensure legislation never comes into force.

Having failed to win the debate, some opponents of assisted dying are threatening to take advantage of parliamentary procedure to impose their will.

Dame Esther is right to say in the Express today that this is not how the Lords are supposed to work.

As she points out, readers with personal experience of the issues involved can contact the peers putting down these amendments and ask them to think again.

Let 2026 be the year that common sense finally prevails, so that nobody is forced to endure unnecessary suffering at the end of their life.

Queen is far from alone

MANY people will have been shocked by the Queen's account of being attacked on the train as a teenager.

But her story, horrific as it is, will not have surprised everyone. The awful truth is that these incidents are far too common, and many women and girls fear using public transport because of the violence and intimidation they have experienced.

The Queen is right to remain angry. There can be no excuse for this behaviour and we all need to play our part as responsible citizens to stop it.

Warmest wishes to all

LET'S face it – recent years haven't been easy for this country. But we shouldn't be gloomy. Far from it.

Britain is a great country and has everything it needs to be greater still. Our people, businesses, cultural institutions and glorious history are second to none.

Despite the many challenges, we can look forward to 2026 with joy and optimism.

We wish a very Happy New Year to each and every one of our readers.

It's a new year but problems of 2025 aren't going away

This year must be one of renewal for the UK or we risk serious decline

Esther Krakue

Daily Express columnist

THERE is a growing sense that 2026 might be the year Britain finally locks in its managed decline. By April, Rachel Reeves's tax rises will begin to take effect. And Labour's inability – or, more accurately, its refusal – to shave even modest amounts off the growing welfare bill has given the professionally unemployed a fresh wind in their sails.

Meanwhile, everyone else is asked to accept that there is simply no alternative. Public spending continues to rise while productivity stalls, and the growing gap between effort and reward makes hardworking people wonder why they even bother turning up to work.

Add to that an unsettled geopolitical backdrop and a lingering sense of economic inertia, and it is difficult to find anyone approaching this new year with much confidence.

No one is going into 2026 believing the country is in good shape. If anything, there's reason to be more pessimistic than ever. Few people seriously expect Keir Starmer to be Prime Minister in a year's time.

His government has spent much of its first stretch oscillating between uncertainty and incompetence – somehow managing to look both risk-averse and woefully unprepared at the same time.

WITHOUT sounding too dramatic, this could be the year that makes or breaks the Britain we know – one of those years where things either start to improve or quietly get worse, with very little resistance from anyone in charge.

The problem now is not just this government but the wider lack of urgency across politics. Big majorities no longer lead to big decisions. Hard reforms are kicked into the long grass because they upset too many people. And we end up with MPs more interested in protecting their cushy £90,000-a-year jobs and the perks that come with them than taking on a welfare bill spiralling out of control.

That drift shows up beyond domestic politics as well. Foreign policy, said to be one of Starmer's strengths, has offered little reassurance. Britain's reliance on America has become increasingly obvious, whether via trade, defence or diplomacy, and while that may be unavoidable, it hardly gives the impression of a country confidently setting its own course.

Back home, the political picture only adds to the sense of stasis. On the right, the Conservatives and Reform are locked in a fight that seems more about point-scoring and positioning than rebuilding anything credible. And on the left, the Greens are picking up disaffected voters, particularly in low-turnout elections where enthusiasm matters more than policy detail. The net effect is a political system that feels loud and busy but rarely seems to land anywhere meaningful.

None of this is to say that Britain itself is finished. But it does help explain why a country with real advantages often feels as though it is going nowhere. Britain is still one of the world's largest economies and a global financial centre. Its universities, legal system and cultural influence remain genuinely significant. But everyday life often tells a different story.

Public services feel stretched and hard to access. Infrastructure projects drag on for years. Big problems are endlessly discussed, consulted on and then postponed.

For most people, the sense is not of collapse but of things getting less reliable and more frustrating.

I say this as someone who did not grow up here. Choosing Britain gives you a clear sense of what works but also of what is taken for granted. The institutions hold. Elections still matter. The state still functions, even when badly run.

But functioning is not the same as flourishing, and resilience should not be mistaken for a plan.

BRITAIN has been written off before, often loudly and with great certainty. After the loss of Empire, during the economic stagnation of the Seventies, and through periods of industrial and financial upheaval. Each time it proved wrong – largely because the country and voters eventually accepted that things had to change.

What feels different now is how comfortable drift has become. Decline is talked about as though it is a certainty rather than something we tolerate. Caution is rewarded, while responsibility is quietly passed around until no one is accountable. If 2026 is to matter, the question is not just whether Starmer survives, or which party gains most ground amid fragmentation. It is whether Britain still expects more of itself than cautious administration and managed decline. We can only hope it does.

> 'This could be the year that makes or breaks this country'

VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

> "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."
>
> *Albert Einstein*

MY CHAMPAGNE GLASS IS ALWAYS HALF FULL

Email me at virginia.blackburn@reachplc.com

We made it to here... so Happy New Year!

AND SO we made it. The last 12 months have been a little more fraught than many of us were anticipating (that's typical British understatement), but take heart. It's not so bad. Yes, the headlines can be very frightening, but 'twas ever thus. I have mentioned here before that my mother took her school exams in an air-raid shelter during the Second World War: she did not emerge complaining of issues with her mental health but just got on with it. As did they all.

Teenagers, in particular, get very afraid of whatever scare story is doing the rounds: in my case it was the threat of nuclear war followed by goodness knows what at the turn of the millennium. Civilisation was going to cave in on itself, if I recall, with us probably resorting to cannibalism and total societal breakdown. It didn't happen. We're still here.

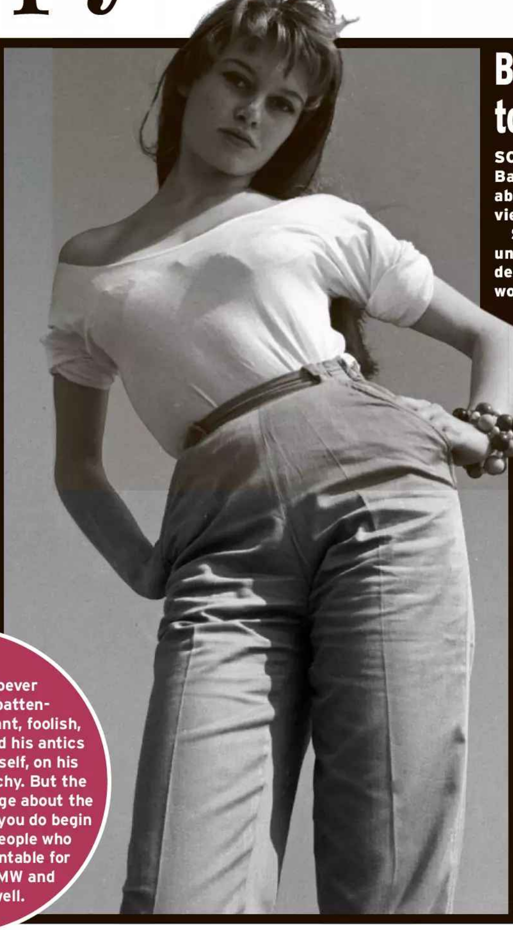
More recently climate change has been giving some of us the heebie-jeebies but even the most fervent are beginning to admit it may not be as bad as we thought.

Meanwhile, Britain continues to be the best country in the world to live in, even with some of the extremists in our midst (see elsewhere on this page.) The pragmatic, moderate British character is still very much in evidence. And we are still the sixth biggest economy in the world.

Remember that this lousy Labour government won't last forever: one day common sense will return. Our people are still fundamentally decent, and we see nothing like the high levels of corruption so endemic to other countries and our monarchy wields a type of soft power to be found nowhere else on the planet. It's a new year, a new dawn and a new beginning for every single one of us.

The very happiest of new years to you all.

I HAVE no sympathy whatsoever for Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor: he was arrogant, foolish, entitled and boorish and his antics brought shame on himself, on his country and the monarchy. But the more grisly details emerge about the Epstein affair, the more you do begin to wonder. The only people who have been held accountable for their actions are AMW and Ghislaine Maxwell. Why?



Beauty guaranteed to do the right thing

SOME of the obituaries of Brigitte Bardot have been a little churlish about her interesting political views: look, at least she survived.

She made it to the age of 91, unlike poor Marilyn Monroe... dead at 36. Extremely beautiful women can sometimes bring out the worst in some men. So I'm not that surprised that in the end it was animals, and not humans, who really conquered Brigitte's heart.

HERE we go again: someone who hates the West and has called for the death of Zionists (for which read Jews) and the police has been welcomed into the country with open arms.

What is wrong with us? Alaa Abd El-Fattah is the last person anyone with sense would want living next door and yet here he is.

The ludicrous Emily Thornberry's been clutching her pearls in anguish at the suggestion that he should be deported – "But he's a British citizen!" Yes, but for less than five years and he's never been here before.

If someone who has been granted British citizenship turns out to be a wrong 'un, can't we just turf him out?

Boy George is a Prince among men

LOVELY to see the young Waleses out and about with their parents, especially Prince George. Now aged 12, he must be aware of the fate that awaits him.

I'm a monarchist but spare him a thought: there aren't many 12-year olds who have their entire life mapped out before them.

With the exception of the likes of AMW, who abused his position, I can't really begrudge them all those castles. It's a high price to pay.

DAME Jenni Murray, above, has been whingeing since she left the show five years ago, that Woman's Hour has become dull and lost its way. Well, she would say that... but it's true.

And while until it was commonplace until recently to say women no longer needed their own hour on the airwaves, these days, with women's rights under attack as never before, we need people to stand up for us more than ever.

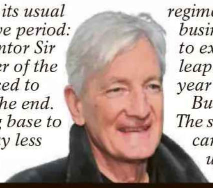
Which is why, ironically, Jenni was forced to stand down.

There's no dark side of this Moon

SO NICE to discover one is a trendsetter. There is a new fad in town: "early moons" in which the bride and groom go away before the big day to relax. My now husband and I did exactly that: three months before our wedding we nipped off to Antigua.

"Are you eloping?" the friendly BA staff asked on learning we were engaged. "No," said my husband, "it's a practise honeymoon." Practise makes perfect. It worked.

ILL WIND BLOWS FOR BRITAIN AS CYCLONE DYSON WHIPS UP A STORM IN SINGAPORE



RADIO 4's Today programme had its usual rota of guest editors over the festive period: this year the line-up included inventor Sir James Dyson. Every single member of the Labour government should be forced to listen to the interview he gave at the end.

Dyson moved his manufacturing base to Singapore, he explained, not to pay less tax – he doesn't – but because the regime there is so much more sympathetic to business. Red tape meant it was impossible to expand quickly here: when he moved he leaped from manufacturing 500,000 units a year to 25million. That's some jump.

But the biggest problem is inheritance tax. The sums demanded are so huge businesses cannot afford to pay them and so are split up. Our fiscally illiterate government may have U-turned on farmers (although they should not have to pay any inheritance tax at all), but other businesses are still affected.

My husband, himself an (extremely successful) entrepreneur, says this government has it totally the wrong way around: taxation can never create growth, but a growing economy will pull in more tax. A five-year-old could grasp that – this government... not so much.

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ON THE MONEY

by **Katie Elliott**

Any questions? Please email me at katie.elliott@reachplc.com

Start in for a penny and save pounds

IF YOU'RE anything like me, you'll start the new year off with a heap of ambitions and goals. Then gradually as the months pass, nearly all of them fall by the wayside.

Possibly because the goals have always been a bit too ambitious, like learning an instrument or a new language from scratch – Welsh is quite hard, isn't it?

This year, I'm choosing not to shoot for the stars, but I do plan to put a few more pennies away. A couple of savings "challenges" have caught my eye in recent weeks, and each seems somewhat manageable in varying degrees. The easiest to slip into is the 365-day 1p challenge. You start by putting aside 1p on day one, 2p on day two, 3p on day three, and so on. It won't feel like much at first, but stick with it and by day 365 you'll have squirrelled away £667.95 without really noticing.

Some banks, such as Monzo, offer savings account features that can complete the daily challenge for you if manually transferring the money becomes tedious.

If a weekly rhythm suits you better, the 52-week £1 challenge follows a similar pattern. Save £1 in the first week, £2 in the second, £3 in the third, and keep going until the final week of the year. You'll amass a more appealing £1,378 by week 52 – enough to soften a financial blow or cover something you really want.

The 100-day envelope challenge offers a more lucrative and unpredictable savings method for the thrillseekers. Number 100 envelopes from one to 100, shuffle them, then pick out two envelopes each week and put the matching amount of pounds inside (or move the money digitally into a savings account). After 50 weeks, you'll have saved £5,050.

If that figure sounds daunting, scale it down by numbering envelopes from one to 50, or one to 25 instead. You'll amass around £1,275, or £325 respectively, doing it this way.

None of these ideas promises a fortune, but if your resolutions usually fall apart, these simple challenges might be the rare goals that might actually stick, and leave you better off for it.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

IF you often travel by train and feel the pinch from the prices, pick up a Railcard via railcard.co.uk to knock a third off your tickets. They cost £35 annually but can save you anything between £112 to £154 per year.

JANUARY marks the perfect time for a financial MOT, when diaries are fresh, and bank statements haven't yet become something to avoid. It's a chance to get a clearer picture of your money.

Start by setting a monthly budget. The 50-30-20 rule is a useful guideline. Allocate 50% of your income for essentials, 30% for things you enjoy, and 20% for savings and debt. Getting this in place early can help you feel more in control, particularly at a time with Rachel Reeves steering economic policy.

Once you've mapped out your budget, spend a few minutes combing through existing payments. Startling research from National Trading Standards estimates 4.7 million people are still paying for subscriptions they never meant to take out or forgot to cancel. These small but frequent amounts chip away at your cash, costing you hundreds annually when left unnoticed.

A quick scan of your statement can uncover a couple of forgotten direct debits worth cancelling.

It's also a good moment to check your bills. If your energy tariff is ending soon or you're on a variable rate, the energy price cap increased by 0.2% on January 1. Shopping around for a fixed-rate deal could save up to £233 a year, Uswitch says.

And it's not just gas and electricity. Sites like MoneySuperMarket can help you check if you're overpaying for broadband too. Better yet, find out if you qualify for a social tariff by visiting ofcom.org.uk, and see your bills slashed to as low as £10 a month.

If you have credit card debt, see whether a 0% balance transfer card could buy you time to repay it, or speak to a charity such as StepChange on 0800 138 1111.

You can also use TSB's Lightning Reach portal to see if you qualify for grants or government schemes. I spoke to a woman before Christmas who had some success - she was handed a free heated blanket from OVO and £150 off her energy bill.

Tom and wife with children

Appeal for fire horror cop tops £315,000

BY **ELEANOR STOREY**

A FUNDRAISING appeal for a police officer who lost his wife and children in a house fire on Boxing Day has raised over £315,000.

Tom Shearman tried to rescue his family but was beaten back by the severity of the blaze that destroyed their home in Brimscombe, near Stroud, Gloucestershire.

His wife Fionnghuala died alongside their children Eve, seven, and four-year-old Ohner.

Mr Shearman, an officer with Gloucestershire Constabulary, was taken to hospital for treatment but has since been discharged.

Donations

The GoFundMe appeal, which was launched on Sunday, is expected to be used to fund emergency accommodation and clothing for Mr Shearman, and to support him financially as he faces his loss.

The original target was £110,000 but it has now gone up to £350,000.

Yesterday the total passed £315,000 from over 15,000 donations.

Emergency services were called to a cottage on Brimscombe Hill at 3am on Boxing Day.

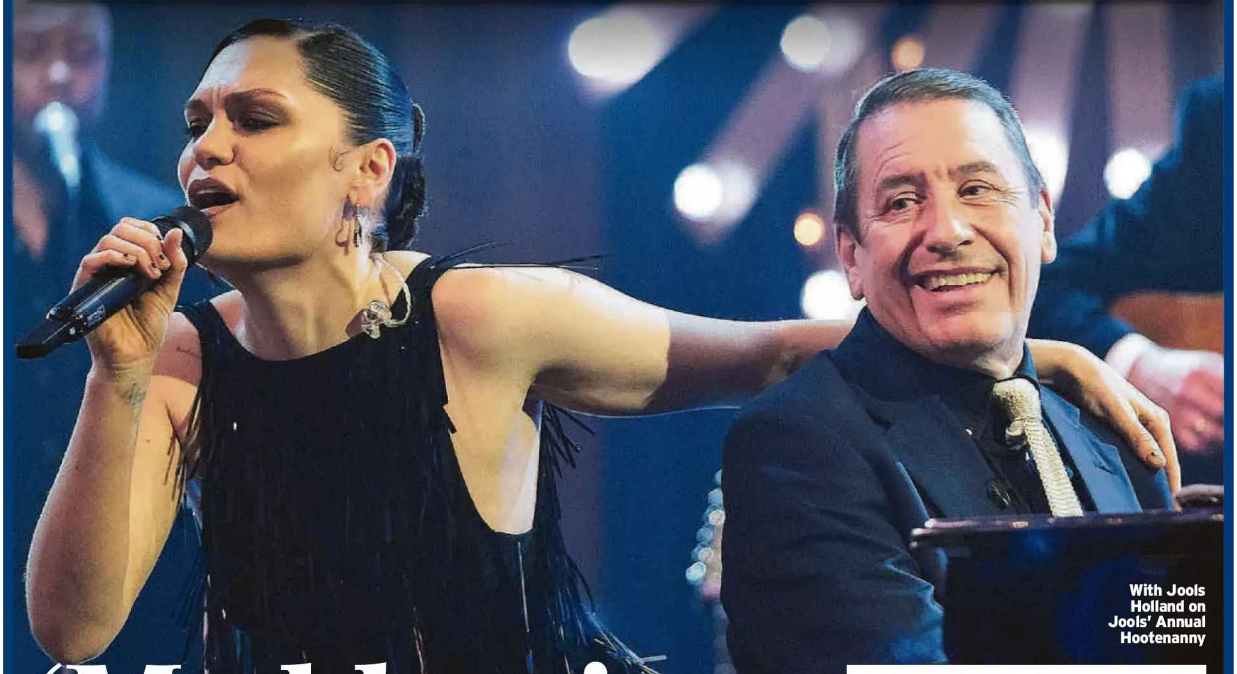
Mr and Mrs Shearman had been woken by the fire and attempted to reach their children in the rear bedroom.

Mr Shearman smashed a bathroom window to try to enter his children's room from outside but was unable to do so.

Because of the severity of the fire, he could not regain entry.

Investigations are continuing to establish the cause of the blaze but police are not treating it as suspicious.

Jessie J on her cancer battle and staying positive



With Jools Holland on Jools' Annual Hootenanny

'My blessings outweigh the challenges I have faced'

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**

JESSIE J stole the show on Jools' Annual Hootenanny last night with an incredible version of My Way and moving words about overcoming breast cancer.

She told Jools Holland how she really does live life her way, following setbacks in 2025. The singer-songwriter, 37, said: "I'm so blessed that all my blessings outweigh anything that's been challenging this year."

In June, the mum-of-one revealed she had breast cancer. She had two operations and had to postpone her UK and European tour. But she was back performing in September, at BBC's Radio 2 in the Park in Chelmsford, Essex. In November she hugged the Princess of Wales at the Royal Variety Performance and brought out her first album in eight years.

Impact

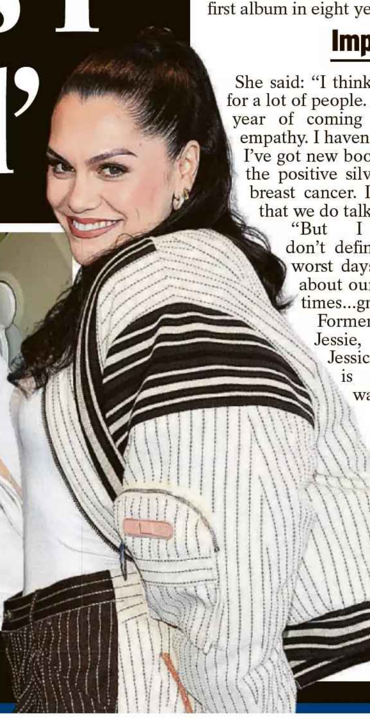
She said: "I think this has been tough for a lot of people. I hope 2026 will be a year of coming together and more empathy. I haven't been well this year, I've got new boobs... we're looking at the positive silver lining. I did have breast cancer. I think it's important that we do talk about it.

"But I will say this, don't define your life on your worst days. We learn the most about ourselves in the hardest times...grab them and learn."

Former Voice UK coach Jessie, whose real name is Jessica Cornish, hopes she is having an impact warning about cancer.

"I hear from people who say that a friend checked her breasts after seeing me talking about it.

"They found a lump, and it's cancer, but they've caught it early. I've got goosebumps. I'll keep talking about how important it is."



Jessie sharing her cancer journey and, right, at Capital's Jingle Bell Ball 2025 on December 7

Winter.
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Set of 5
£24.00
was £30.00

✓ Plant type: Perennial
✓ Flowering period: February - April
✓ Position: Full sun / part sun / part shade
✓ Height / Spread in maturity: 30cm/30cm
✓ Temperatures: Hardy down to -10°C
✓ Good for: Borders, pots, containers, pollinators, low-maintenance gardens, ground cover, cuttings, front of beds, baskets

For many gardens, the gap between winter and spring feels long, and Polyanthus Showstopper Fire Dragon helps bridge it. Fiery red flowers with golden yellow centres rise above tidy evergreen rosettes, bringing early colour to borders and pots. This hardy primula prefers partial sun and moist, well-drained soil. Plant in autumn or early spring for best results. Regular deadheading encourages extended flowering. Supplied as one plant in a 1L pot, it suits both novice and experienced UK gardeners.

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PEAKY BLINDERS

Birmingham show uses Black Country Living Museum

HARRY POTTER
HARRY POTTER
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MARK MYLOD
ADRIANO GOLDMAN
14.07.25

Alnwick Castle was seen in films. New show stars Dominic McLaughlin, left

BRIDGERTON

Bath's famous Royal Crescent features in Bridgerton

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief Reporter

BRITAIN is set to attract record-breaking numbers of international tourists thanks to the popularity of TV shows and film.

Visitors are being lured to England after watching series such as The Crown, Downton Abbey, Bridgerton, Pride and Prejudice and Peaky Blinders.

Scotland, too, has seen a sharp rise in interest thanks to the runaway popularity of The Traitors, a trend expected to accelerate as the latest series launches tonight.

This surge in "screen tourism" is turning once under-the-radar locations into must-visit hotspots, as fans flock to historic estates, dramatic coastlines and iconic city streets.

Destinations such as the Highlands, Northumberland, the Black Country and North Wales are predicted to rival London in terms of their pulling power. Nick de Bois, former chairman of the British Tourist Authority, said: "International visitors are set to grow again this coming year and that's very welcome but the harsh reality is we are losing our market share to other European destinations.

Stunning

"That's why 2026 is so important to our brilliant tourism industry and judging by the results of the Starring Great Britain international campaign we are showcasing.

"From our seaside towns that are set to be reinvigorated to the stunning coastlines of Devon, Wales and my favourite, Northumberland, and the experiences of our vibrant outdoor festival scene and themed attractions, we have it all."

Visitors from Australia, the Gulf, France, Germany and the US are expected to help boost the UK's inbound travel boom, adding to an overseas tourism industry worth £32.5billion a year to the economy.

Analysis shows nine in 10 potential visitors to the UK would be keen to visit film and TV locations during a trip here.

Popular destinations include Bath, with its Regency-era architecture that has been the setting for many Jane Austen adaptations. Its Royal Crescent was used in Netflix's Bridgerton, and interest is expected to climb again when series four arrives on

DOWNTON ABBEY

Period drama uses exterior shots of Highclere Castle in Hampshire

Sights, camera, action!

January 29. The Traitors alone has injected £21.8m into Scotland's economy between 2022 and 2025, with both the UK and US versions filmed at Ardross Castle in the Highlands, just north of Inverness.

Northumberland's Alnwick Castle stood in for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the first two Harry Potter films.

Pottermania may resurge with the release in 2027 of HBO's TV version of the tale, starring Dominic McLaughlin.

Manchester's Northern Quarter doubled for 1940s New York in Captain America, and Highclere Castle, Berks, was the location for period drama Downton Abbey.

The Black Country Living Museum in the West Midlands served as a backdrop for the Birmingham gang-based drama Peaky Blinders. Fans have another reason to visit as a movie, titled Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man, starring Cillian Murphy as Tommy Shelby, is out on March 6. Game of Thrones fans continue to flock to Northern Ireland, making a beeline for a tour of Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge, County Down.

They also love to visit locations such as the rugged cliffs of Fair Head, County Antrim.

Emotional

Visit Britain boss Patricia Yates said: "Films, TV and tourism have a lot in common. They bring people together and foster emotional connections. They can transport us to new experiences and adventures.

"With Great Britain providing centuries of inspiration and locations for stories brought to life on the silver screen, film-loving visitors are spoilt for choice. Tourism also positions how Britain is seen around the world.

"Those who have visited us are 16% more likely to invest in our businesses, products and services."

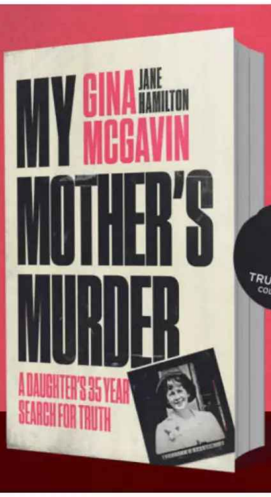
Windsor Great Park, the sweeping grounds next to the official residence of King Charles, Stonehenge in Wiltshire, Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill in Oxfordshire, Eden Project in Cornwall, and Canterbury Cathedral all remain huge pulls for visitors.

London remains the biggest draw, with perennially popular sites including Buckingham Palace, the Natural History Museum and the National Gallery.

The US is currently the UK's largest and most valuable market, with 4.6 million visitors annually spending £6bn between them.

Chris Evans as Captain America, whose tale was filmed in Manchester

Claudia Winkleman hosts Traitors in Scotland



A DAUGHTER'S 35 YEAR SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH

"THIS IS TRUE CRIME AT ITS VERY BEST"

PROF DAVID WILSON

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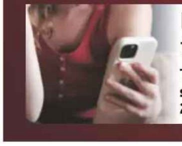

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Slimming World

By Christine Smith

CORONATION Street star Julia Goulding says working with Emmerdale cast members was a dream come true. Julia is at the centre of the drama when the two ITV soaps meet for a one-off "Corriedale" special on Monday, with her character Shona Platt involved in a minibus crash.

She would not reveal whether the story marks the end of the road for Shona, or her character's husband David. But if it does, she is happy to go out on such a high, working with Emmerdale stars such as Emma Atkins, who plays Charity Dingle, and Chris Chittell, who stars as Eric Pollard.

Julia says: "I was over the moon to be asked. I was very excited. It was absolutely brilliant working alongside Emma, as it was Chris.

"There is a scene with Ken [Barlow] and Pollard and Shona and David. It was so surreal!

"I can't say whether these scenes were before or after the crash, but it was a real 'pinch me' moment."

Of the dramatic storyline, she adds: "I can't say if she or David survive the crash or not, but it's safe to say Shona is in a very delicate position. They both get knocked out and it's touch and go.

"If they are both affected, the stakes are going to be very high.

"It is going to be such a special episode.

"If Shona is lucky enough to survive the crash, I would love it if there was another Corriedale special episode at a future point.

"And I would be begging for Shona to be part of it.

"But I really do fear for Shona ahead of this first Corriedale episode…"

Julia with her husband, Ben

'I really do fear for Shona ahead of this first Corriedale'

While she is used to seeing Emmerdale actors at awards ceremonies, Julia has not worked with them before.

She continues: "There is no rivalry between us all. It was so nice to finally work together.

"Emma is a class actress and she is such a lovely person. We sat chatting in between scenes having a natter and we got on like a house on fire."

Clearly impressed by the cliff-hanger episode, she continues: "We've got Duncan Foster directing the episode. He has done some of Corrie's biggest episodes and Emmerdale's too, so you know you are in safe hands.

"He knows both casts and crew very well. It was so exciting to shoot."

Julia, 40, has two children – Franklin, six, and Emmeline, three – with her husband Ben Silver, whom she married on stage at Manchester's Albert Hall in February 2019.

She is grateful to have had easier pregnancies than her character, who has just been told her unborn child has a concerning growth on their neck.

"It was tough filming the scenes when Shona found out about the mass," she says. "It's every parent's worst nightmare and you don't have to stretch yourself emotionally when you hear news like that. Thankfully, my own pregnancies were a hell of a lot smoother than what Shona is having to face."

Julia has been wearing a cumbersome prosthetic bump to make Shona's pregnancy look more convincing. She says: "I was more comfortable when I was pregnant in real life. They are made from rubber and the bump is heavy and sweaty. I have had a bad back for the past eight weeks because it is so heavy!"

Despite the uncomfortable costume, Julia enjoys playing Shona now just as much as she did when she debuted on the cobbles nine years ago.

After training at London's RADA, it was her first TV role.

"I love playing her," she says. "Every day is different and exciting. Nothing is ever the same.

"You might be crying in the morning about your baby being sick, but then laughing and joking in the afternoon filming Christmas scenes."

And she and Jack P Shepherd, who plays David, are great friends.

"We have been together in the soap for nine years," she says. "Who has heard of a nine-year relationship in a soap?

"We are good mates and it's a laugh a minute.

"When the going gets tough, we both switch it on, but you also need to have the lighter moments.

"We have a lot of fun filming together."

But she has no intention of following her screen husband into the Celebrity Big Brother house.

She says: "It is one of the most terrifying thoughts ever to be that exposed for 24 hours on TV."

JULIA has just enjoyed a brilliant family Christmas away from Corrie, recharging her batteries.

"Now we have got children, Christmas is all about them," she says. "We had a lot of fun in the run-up, doing things like glow walks. We love family stuff like that and it's nice having time off."

Julia says she has both sets of her kids' grandparents to thank for helping make it possible for her to be a working mum.

"We are very lucky. We have got grandparents who can help. But it's always nice to get home."

● *Corriedale is on Monday at 8pm on ITV1 and ITVX. Coronation Street will then air every weekday at 8.30pm.*

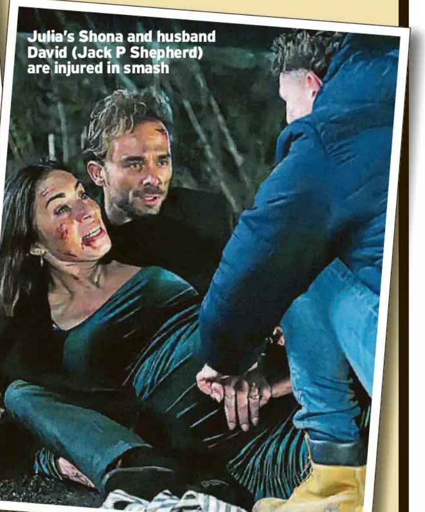
Julia Goulding at the premiere of Corriedale, where the worlds of Coronation Street and Emmerdale collide

‘Filming with Emmerdale stars was a pinch-me moment’

Coronation Street favourite Julia Goulding on how it’s touch and go for her character in the dramatic ‘Corriedale’ special

The minibus on its side in the one-off Corriedale episode

Julia worked with Emma Atkins as Charity Dingle



Julia’s Shona and husband David (Jack P Shepherd) are injured in smash

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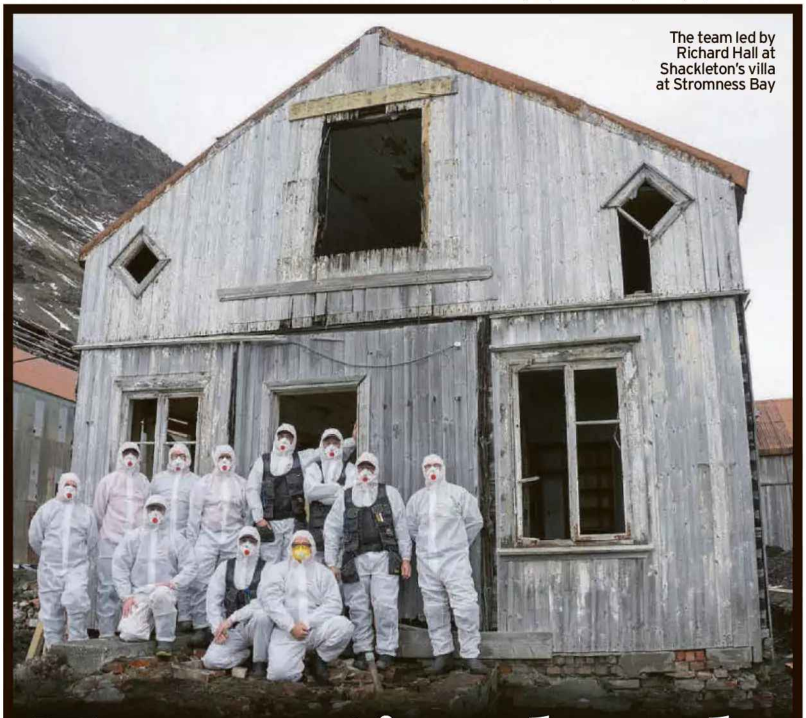

The team led by Richard Hall at Shackleton's villa at Stromness Bay

Ernest's shack

Explorer's wooden villa restored

BY **SARAH WARD**

A REMOTE wooden building where Sir Ernest Shackleton planned a heroic rescue of his stranded crew is being restored by a dedicated team.

The shack forms part of a whaling station on the South Atlantic island of South Georgia where the Antarctic explorer travelled 800 miles in a lifeboat to seek help after his ship the Endurance was crushed by ice.

He took just five crew from the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition with him on the perilous rescue mission, leaving 22 behind on Elephant Island, off the coast of Antarctica. After three failed attempts, the crew were finally rescued in a boat lent by the Chilean navy in August 1916, around four months after Shackleton set off in the lifeboat.

Specialists

Now the historic buildings at the whaling station in Stromness Bay are being restored in a £2million project by the South Georgia Heritage Trust.

Four Norwegian carpenters, with colleagues from Britain including a doctor, asbestos specialists and team leader Richard Hall, travelled five days by boat to reach the site in November and found it near to collapse.

Mr Hall, 44, said: "Stromness whaling station was the first human contact that Shackleton's crew had met in about 18 months.

"It is one of the few places which has a tangible link to Shackleton, and he mentions it in his book, South.

"It's quite a basic wooden building but to him it was like a palace."

Once restored it will become a digital museum.

Stromness whaling station on South Georgia and, inset, Sir Ernest Shackleton

Winter.

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Due for dispatch from 6th March
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Set of 5 £23.80 was £28.00

While most plants sleep through winter, Primula vulgaris 'Raspberry Rose' provides vibrant colour and structure in the garden. Raspberry-pink flowers with sunny yellow centres rise above a neat evergreen rosette from late winter into spring, ideal for shaded borders, woodland gardens, or patio containers. Hardy to -10°C, it thrives in moist, well-drained soil with part sun or part shade and tolerates cooler sun. Plant in autumn or early spring to establish roots for long-lasting blooms. Supplied as one 1L pot, it is low-maintenance, resilient, and offers intermittent reblooming, making it perfect for UK gardeners seeking reliable early-season interest while supporting pollinators in a naturalistic planting.

- ✓ Plant type: Perennial
- ✓ Flowering period: January - March
- ✓ Position: Part sun / part shade
- ✓ Height / Spread in maturity: 20cm/20cm
- ✓ Temperatures: Hardy down to -15°C
- ✓ Good for: Borders, pots, containers, hanging baskets, pollinators, low-maintenance gardens, ground cover, informal planting, front of beds

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BYE, BYE

Which co-writer of Shakespeare in Love, starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes, died aged 88?

Taylor Swift, left, but what was her latest album called? Right, what is Sarah Mullally's new job?

1 What is 2025 in Roman numerals?
2 Who won Celebrity Big Brother UK?
3 In which country was the COP30 summit held in November?
4 Who played Jamie Miller in the hit TV series Adolescence?
5 What office is Dame Sarah Mullally about to hold?
6 Who won the Ladies' Singles at Wimbledon this year?
7 Which Barbadian pop princess gave birth to Rocki Irish Mayers?
8 Who won the FA Cup?
9 Which all-time leading English Test wicket-taker was knighted?
10 Which American city saw violent protests in June in response to immigration arrests?
11 Who won Best Actor at the Oscars?
12 From which gallery were the French Crown Jewels stolen in October?
13 Which three teams were promoted to the Premier League?
14 Which pop star went into space in April aboard Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin rocket?
15 Where was UK City of Culture 2025?
16 The 250th anniversary of the birth of which author was celebrated in Bath?
17 Who launched Operation Spiderweb in June?
18 Which nation became the world's most populous during the year?
19 Who won the Men's Singles at Wimbledon?
20 By what name is Robert Francis Prevost better known?
21 Who won Golf's 2025 Masters Tournament?
22 Which Pope's funeral was held in April?
23 Who won Record of the Year at the Grammys?
24 With which BBC show did Claudia Winkleman kick off the year?
25 Which British airport shut down in March as a result of a catastrophic power outage?
26 What foreign sport came to the Royal Albert Hall in October?
27 Which country won the 2025 Eurovision Song Contest?
28 2025 was the 100th anniversary of which sport in the UK?
29 Who was elected Chancellor of Germany in May?
30 The land-speed record in the Sunbeam Blue Bird was set 100 years ago by whom?
31 Name the legendary former Manchester United and Scotland striker who died aged 84 in January.
32 What were Daniel Michael Graham, 39, and Adam Carruthers, 32, jailed for in July?
33 Name the British pop star whose latest album, West End Girl, was said to have been inspired by her husband's infidelity.
34 Which Italian fashion legend died aged 91 in September?
35 Which British singer-songwriter released an album titled Heartland after moving to Nashville?
36 Who won Artist of the Year at the Brit Awards?
37 From where did the Great North Run start?
38 Where did Donald Trump meet Vladimir Putin in August?
39 The 100th anniversary of which rugby stadium was marked in 2025?
40 Which Oscar-winning star of Annie Hall died in October?
41 The Chancery Rosewood is a swish new London hotel located in which former embassy?
42 For the work of which Dutch artist was the highest publicly reported auction price?
43 Which famous mum gave birth to Athena Elizabeth Rose Mapelli Mozzi in January?
44 Name the Top Gun and Batman actor who died at the age of 65 in April.
45 Which West Midlands-born rock star with a love of bats died in July aged 76?
46 Who stepped down as Deputy Prime Minister in September?
47 Name Israel's leader.
48 Name the winner of the 2025 Booker Prize.
49 What did Taylor Swift call her 12th studio album, released in October?
50 Which storm in January unleashed winds in Scotland and Northern Ireland of around 100mph?
51 A former financial journalist who founded The Independent died in November, aged 88. What was their name?
52 How much do first-class and second-class stamps cost in the UK following a rise?
53 What business is Sam Altman in?
54 Who won this year's Ryder Cup?
55 Which Hollywood icon died at his home at Sundance in the mountains of Utah in September, aged 89?
56 What was Oxford University's "word of the year"?
57 The founder of Turning Point USA was murdered in September. What was his name?
58 Who chose not to wear a traditional suit when meeting Donald Trump for talks in the Oval Office?

meaning online content deliberately designed to provoke anger **57** Charlie Kirk **58** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky **59** La Voix (from RuPaul's Drag Race UK) **60** Duchess of Kent **61** May **62** Liverpool **63** Office for Budget Responsibility chairman Richard Hughes **64** Wes Streeting **65** England's Red Roses **66** Brian Wilson **67** Birmingham **68** Sally Rooney **69** The Empire **70** Ousmane Dembélé **71** That the legal definition of a woman is based on biological sex **72** Stockton and Darlington **73** Elon Musk **74** Mike Amesbury **75** Mikey Madison **76** Sir David Beckham **77** Baroness Heather Hallett **78** Princess Anne **79** Richard Tice **80** China **81** England **82** PM of Canada **83** Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and Sarah Ferguson **84** Artificial Intelligence **85** Hong Kong **86** Beyoncé **87** Perth **88** Nicolas Sarkozy **89** Munich **90** Magna Carta **91** Scottie Scheffler **92** Liverpool **93** November **94** Zohran Mamdani **95** Prince Andrew **96** The automatic right to jury trials **97** Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande **98** Sir Tom Stoppard **99** Banu Mushtaq for Heart Lamp **100** South Cambridgeshire district council

2025!

How much do you remember about the last 12 months? Test your knowledge with our brilliant New Year's Day quiz for all the family, by ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD

Prince William and Keir Starmer at November's COP Summit, but which country was it held in?

Can you name Claudia Winkleman's hit BBC show?

59 Who was the first drag queen contestant in the main UK edition of Strictly Come Dancing?

60 Who was the oldest member of the Royal Family who died in September?

61 In which month was the 80th anniversary of VE Day?

62 Which team won the Premier League title in May?

63 Who was forced to quit in the wake of the autumn Budget?

64 Which minister denied plotting against Keir Starmer in November?

65 Who won the Women's World Rugby Cup in September?

66 What was the name of The Beach Boys' chief songwriter, who died in June?

67 Where were the UK Athletics Indoor Championships held?

68 Which Irish novelist threatened to stop publishing her books in the UK over the government's ban of Palestine Action?

69 Which theatre in Liverpool turned 100?

70 Who won the Ballon d'Or for the best male footballer?

71 What did the UK's Supreme Court rule in April?

72 It was the 200th anniversary of the first steam-hauled public railway between which two towns?

73 Who fell out with Donald Trump in June – claiming that the US president had "lost his mind"?

74 Which MP resigned after being given a suspended prison sentence for a late-night assault on a constituent?

75 Who won Best Actress at the Oscars?

76 Name the former Manchester United and England footballer who was knighted in November.

77 Who was chairing the official public inquiry into Covid?

78 Which royal celebrated their 75th birthday in August?

79 Name Reform UK's deputy leader, who voted for a national inquiry into grooming gangs in January.

80 Which country were Christopher Cash and Christopher Berry accused of spying for before the case against them collapsed?

81 Which team won the UEFA Women's Euro 2025?

82 What is former Bank of England boss Mark Carney's new job?

83 Which former couple were told to sling their hook from the Royal Lodge?

84 What could replace up to three million low-skilled UK jobs by 2035?

85 Where did a devastating fire of apartment blocks kill more than 150 people after spreading via bamboo scaffolding?

86 Who won Album of the Year at the Grammy Awards?

87 In which Australian city was the first Test of the Ashes?

88 Which former French president was jailed in October?

89 In which German city was the Champions League Final held?

90 Tens of thousands of people flocked to see copies of what in Durham Cathedral?

91 Who won the British Open?

92 Which city held the World Boxing Championships?

93 In which month was this year's Budget?

94 Who became the hard-Left Mayor of New York?

95 What was Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor previously known as?

96 What did Justice Secretary David Lammy plan to mark the end of last month?

97 Name the actors who played Elphaba and Glinda in Wicked: For Good.

98 The writer of Shakespeare in Love and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead died aged 88. What was their name?

99 Who won the International Booker Prize in May?

100 In July, which English council became the first in the UK to permanently adopt a four-day week?

● *Adam Jacot de Boinod was a researcher for the first BBC series QI, compered by Stephen Fry, and is an author of several books, including The Meaning of Tingo and I Never Knew There Was a Word For It.*

ANSWERS

1 MMXXV **2** Jack P. Shepherd **3** Brazil **4** Owen Cooper **5** Archbishop of Canterbury **6** Iga Swiatek **7** Rihanna **8** Crystal Palace **9** Sir James Anderson **10** Los Angeles **11** Adrien Brody **12** The Louvre **13** Leeds United, Burnley and Sunderland **14** Katy Perry **15** Bradford **16** Jane Austen **17** Ukraine (it was a large drone attack on Russian military bases) **18** India **19** Jannik Sinner **20** Pope Leo XIV **21** Rory McIlroy **22** Francis **23** Kendrick Lamar **24** The Traitors **25** Heathrow **26** Sumo **27** Austria (artist JJ) **28** Greyhound racing **29** Friedrich Merz **30** Sir Malcolm Campbell **31** Denis Law **32** Cutting down the Sycamore Gap tree **33** Lily Allen **34** Giorgio Armani **35** Sam Ryder **36** Charli XCX **37** Newcastle **38** Alaska **39** Murrayfield Stadium (Scotland) **40** Diane Keaton **41** American **42** Piet Mondrian **43** Princess Beatrice **44** Val Kilmer **45** Ozzy Osbourne **46** Angela Rayner **47** Benjamin Netanyahu **48** David Szalay (for Flesh) **49** The Life of a Showgirl **50** Storm Éowyn **51** Sir Andreas Whittam Smith **52** £1.70 and 87p respectively **53** Artificial Intelligence **54** Europe **55** Robert Redford **56** Rage Bait,

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	74	-35	REVERSE THE DIGITS	÷3	+5	x4	+16	2/5 OF THIS	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	
Intermediate	94	x3	-127	+5	7/8 OF THIS	+78	÷2	+176	40% OF THIS	
Advanced	98	x7	+286	8/27 OF THIS	-85	x4	-83	TAKE THE CUBE ROOT	x28	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
LOTTERY
3 20 27 29 38 46 14
THUNDERBALL
15 18 20 23 27 8

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30
EUROMILLIONS 11 26 29 34 44 1 10
THUNDERBALL 6 7 18 28 35 14

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
SET FOR LIFE 8 13 15 25 39 6

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
3 6 14 19 43 42

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30
1 23 25 36 49 8

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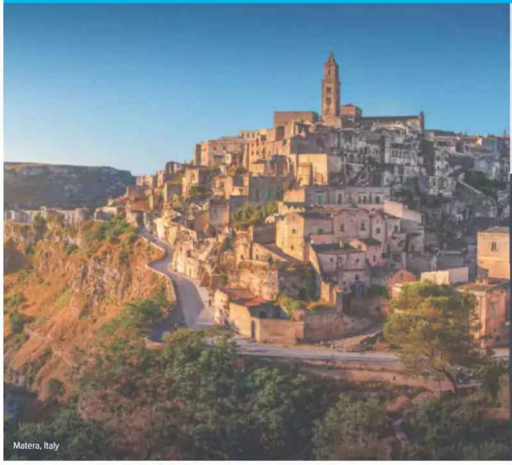

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Tuesday:
Should Alaa Abd el-Fattah now be stripped of British citizenship?

YES: 99%

NO: 1%

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SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		1		3			8	4
2						9	5	
3	5		2	8	4			
6	1		9	4				8
						6		
		3		1	6		2	5
	2		8	7			4	9
		7				8		6
8	3		6	9		5		

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For extra clues call:
09013 225 602
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)
MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

9	4	7	5	1	2	3	8	6
2	6	3	9	7	8	4	1	5
1	8	5	4	3	6	7	2	9
4	7	6	3	2	5	1	9	8
3	5	9	8	4	1	2	6	7
8	2	1	6	9	7	5	3	4
6	1	8	7	5	3	9	4	2
7	3	4	2	6	9	8	5	1
5	9	2	1	8	4	6	7	3

Laura and Megan with their sons Kasper and Robin

Double baby delight stuns twin sisters, 31

BY **KATE POUNDS**

IDENTICAL twin sisters had sons just hours apart and say their "biological clocks are ticking in time".

Laura Kettlety and Megan Baldwin, 31, had no idea the other was trying to become pregnant.

They found out the happy news just weeks apart in April 2024, before giving birth via unplanned caesareans on December 13, 2024.

Friends

Megan, of Barnham, West Sussex, welcomed 7lb 7oz Robin at 5.26pm at the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath – where Megan and Laura were born in 1994.

Laura gave birth to Kasper, 6lb and 11oz, down the road at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, at 9.46pm.

The "cousin twins" met when they were three days old and are set to become firm friends. Laura and Megan, who both work in catering, say they see each other every day. Married Laura, from Rustington, West Sussex, said: "It's so crazy how our biological clocks are ticking in time with each other like this."

Single mum Megan added: "I was in shock at first and didn't quite believe it. I love the fact the boys get to grow up together and they will always have each other."

Recalling breaking the news of their pregnancies, Megan announced it to Laura then their parents in early April 2024. Three weeks later Laura, who had been trying for a baby for several years, was delighted to find she was pregnant and told the family.

Laura said: "We were so shocked. Everyone thought we planned it but we didn't at all."

The mums and sons have just enjoyed spending Christmas together with parents Deborah and Nicholas.

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Day 5	**Mt Fuji (from Shimizu), Japan** Mount Fuji is one of Japan's most enduring and famous sights. Not only is it Japan's highest mountain, but it's also an active volcano and considered sacred to the area's residents
Day 7	**Kobe, Japan** (overnight - depart early morning day 8)
Day 8	**Kyoto (from Osaka), Japan** Kyoto, once the capital of Japan, is famous for its classical Buddhist temples, as well as gardens, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses. The traditional tea ceremony was born here, and can still be experienced alongside geishas in traditional kimonos
Day 9	**Kochi, Japan** Quieter than Tokyo and more outdoorsy than Kobe, a cruise to Kochi is the perfect way to see a more relaxed, traditional Japan
Day 10	**Hiroshima, Japan** Hiroshima offers a rich mix of cultural landmarks, beautiful parks and unforgettable experiences. While it is most famous fot the tragic events of WWII, it is also a city of peace, hope and incredible beauty
Day 12	**Busan, South Korea**
Day 13	**Nagasaki, Japan**
Day 14	**Kagoshima, Japan**
Day 16	**Tokyo (from Yokohama), Japan** Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London
Day 17	**Arrive in London**

Kochi, Japan

Days not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea. Itinerary is based on 7th March 2028 departure and ports may vary on other date

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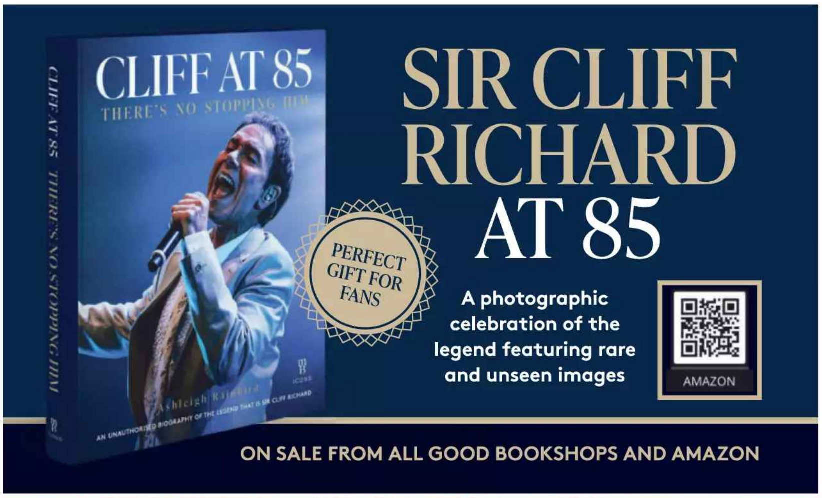
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- SUNDAY TRAVEL, GARDENING & REVIEWS

TECH SHAPE OF THE FUTURE

Edited by **DAVE SNELLING**

VODAFONE HOME CHECK

Vodafone is offering broadband users a clever free upgrade called Who's Home. Anyone with the firm's latest Ultra Hub 7 routers can now get alerts when loved ones arrive or leave home for the day.

Available at no extra cost, Who's Home delivers instant notifications straight to the Vodafone Broadband app, giving households a simple snapshot of who's in or out.

REVOLUT MOBILE REVOLUTION

UK phone owners have a new way to stay connected. Revolut Mobile is launching this year and will offer some serious competition to big names such as EE, O2 and Vodafone.

This all-new UK network is promising unlimited data, calls and texts from just £12.50 per month, and that's not all.

Other perks include free roaming in Europe and the US, which means no more bill shocks when arriving home from holiday.

HUAWEI CLIP ON

Huawei may be renowned for its smartphones, but the Chinese tech giant also produces some decent wearables. The latest accessories to join its range are the FreeClip 2 earbuds, which offer powerful performance and a lightweight design that's built for comfort.

As the name suggests, these music makers clip on to the ear for a more secure fit.

They also offer solid sound, noise cancellation and dust and water resistance.

The FreeClip 2 will go on sale later this month and costs £179.99.

TECH & MOTORING

28 Tech
30 Motoring
33 TV Guide
38 Your Letters
41 City
PLUS Horoscopes
PLUS Puzzles

YOUR CLEAN START

The Christmas parties are over and we've welcomed in the new year, so if your house feels like a tip, there's a smart new way to clean things up.

The PencilVac from Dyson is officially the world's slimmest vacuum, which not only makes it easy to whizz around your floors but also perfect for getting into nooks and crannies.

It even features a unique Fluffycones head that can be moved in any direction – a little like a high-tech mop.

Despite its stick-thin design, it's still powerful enough to suck up all the muck around your rooms thanks to a small but mighty Hyperdymium motor.

The PencilVad also includes futuristic, glowing green lasers that show if you've missed any dust or grime.

There is easy charging via a supplied stand, and it gets a clever air-compressing bin that squishes the grime and allows the container to hold five times more debris.

Sadly, the PencilVac is only designed for hard floors. It also costs an eye-watering £429.

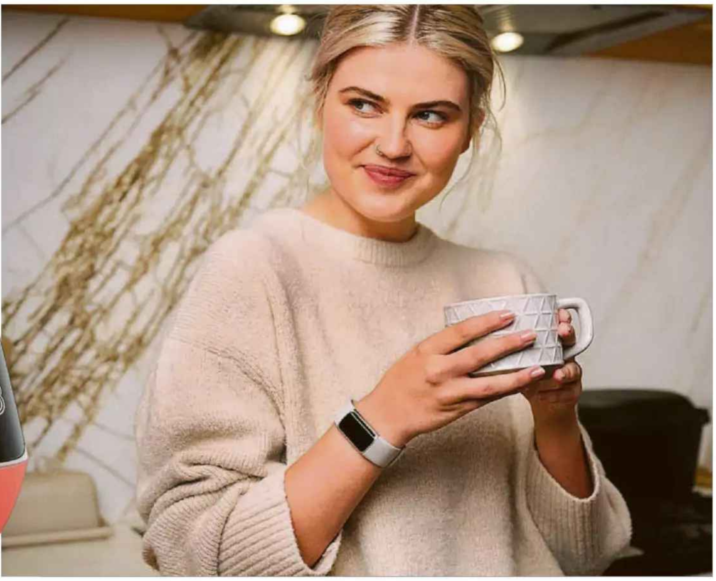
Kick off a new fitness routine

It's 2026, and with it those New Year's resolutions. If you want to start – or continue – to work on your fitness and burn off the festive flab, now is the perfect time. There are plenty of gadgets and tech out there that can help, as deputy technology editor Henry Burrell can confirm with these fully tested picks

FITBIT CHARGE 6 £139.99, ARGOS

The Fitbit Charge 6 is a great entry-level activity tracker that won't break the bank. Its battery can last about six days, and with built-in GPS and contactless payments you can leave your phone at home and still track your run routes and pay for that post-exercise latte.

68
12
58
7,546



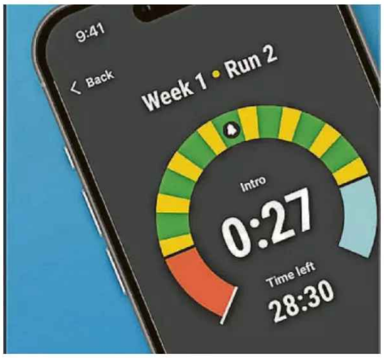
NATHAN STROBELIGHT £10.99, AMAZON

Don't go running in the dark without a light. A top choice is this tiny Nathan StrobeLight. The light clips easily on to your shirt or jacket and can stay a constant red or flash. Its lightweight design means you won't notice it when out jogging, and while it won't illuminate your path, it gives peace of mind that drivers know you're there.

ASICS NOVABLAST 5 £135, ASICS

The Asics Novablast 5 are a great, stable daily shoe for road running with excellent support and enough bounce to keep you moving, even when you'd rather be sat on the sofa.

Their tech includes a lightweight FF BLAST MAX foam, a breathable mesh and trampoline-inspired outsole to put a spring in your step.

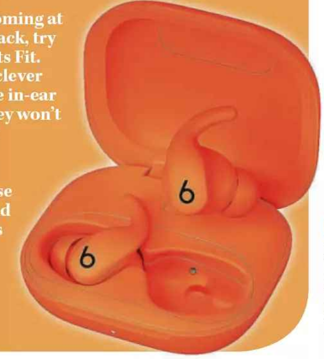


COUCH TO 5K APP APPLE/ANDROID, FREE

For a structured introduction to running, look no further than the NHS Couch to 5K app for iPhone or Android. This excellent free app will guide you at your own pace as you get into running, with familiar celebrity and Olympic faces to help. You get full progress tracking and motivational cues, and it can even integrate your own music into workouts.

BEATS POWERBEATS FIT £199.95, APPLE

To keep the tunes coming at the gym or on the track, try the Beats Powerbeats Fit. The new buds have clever wing tips to keep the in-ear design secure, so they won't fall out when you're pumping iron or pounding the pavements. Noise cancellation and audio quality is top notch for iPhone or Android devices.



OURA RING 4, £499, AMAZON

If you don't want a watch, how about a subtler smart ring? The colourful Oura Ring 4 Ceramic is sure to turn heads. It'll track heart rate, sleep, stress, skin temperature and all of your vitals 24/7, though you need to pay a £5.99 per month subscription. A subscription-free alternative is the Ultrahuman Ring AIR (£329), a cheaper and more lightweight rival with automatic workout detection.

SUPERCAR *BMW's electric iX3*

What you can expect from the big-hitters

Watch out for smart new launches on the back of Vegas's big new year tech show starting this week

There's another big 12 months of blockbuster tech launches ahead, and it all kicks off in Las Vegas next week with the yearly CES show opening its doors on January 6. Expect plenty of weird and wacky gadgets to be unveiled in the Nevada desert.

Previous years have seen flying cars, robot pets and TVs that roll up like paper.

Next up, we expect Samsung to unveil its latest Galaxy S26 flagship phones before spring arrives, along with a global release of its innovative tri-fold phone, which unravels to reveal a massive 10in screen.

Talking of foldables, rumours are rife that 2026 could be the year that Apple finally launches a bendy iPhone. If true, we can expect to see that hotly anticipated device unveiled in September at the firm's space-aged HQ in California. Another tech trend to watch out for is more advancements in AI aimed at making your life a little easier.

In fact, Amazon's smarter Alexa+ assistant, which can answer more advanced queries and chat to you like a real person, could arrive in the UK very soon.

Broadband speeds will almost certainly get faster throughout the year, and anyone with an ageing phone will need to upgrade.

O2 is the last of the major UK networks to confirm it will switch off its 3G signal this year, meaning only 4G and 5G devices will have access to mobile data.

Finally, watch out for some seriously smart electric cars arriving during 2026, including BMW's new iX3 and the supercharged Porsche Cayenne, which offer 400 miles of motoring on a single charge.

Galaxy Z TriFold
Galaxy AI

FLIPPIN' ECK *Samsung's tri-fold handset*

HELP AT HAND *New Smart Hub 7 Plus router*

More power for the home

EE wants to boost your broadband. The internet service provider, now part of the BT group, has announced the launch of a powerful new Smart Hub 7 Plus router that supports faster speeds and enhanced connectivity throughout the home.

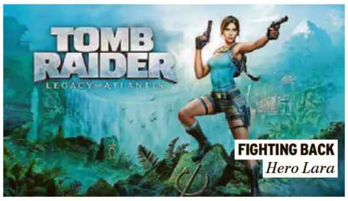
It's powered by the latest Wi-Fi 7 technology and will be available on plans up to 1Gbps. That means more customers will now have access to significantly improved performance that beats ageing and slower Wi-Fi 4 and Wi-Fi 5 routers.

EE is now boasting that it's the first major UK network to offer all full-fibre plans built with Wi-Fi 7 connectivity as standard.

EE's full-fibre home broadband packages will range from £28.99 on 74Mbps up to £39.99 on 900Mbps, on a 24-month contract length.

GAMING NEWS

By **TOM HUTCHISON**



FIGHTING BACK *Hero Lara*

TOMB RAIDER

Gaming hero Lara Croft is returning to consoles in two new epic adventures. The classic 90s action heroine will star in Legacy of Atlantis in 2026 on PS5, Xbox Series X and PC and another game called Catalyst that follows up in 2027.

British voice actress Alix Wilton Regan, 39, will take on the role of the iconic tomb hunter, having been a well-known actor in gaming on titles like Mass Effect 3 and Cyberpunk 2077.

The titles were announced at the annual Game Awards in Los Angeles, and bosses at Amazon Game Studios and Crystal Dynamics are delighted at their team-up to deliver two more action-packed adventures.

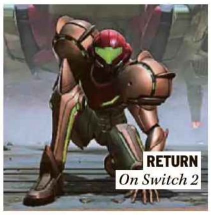
Legacy of Atlantis is classic 1996 Croft reimagined for today's audience, with old-school gameplay but movie-like graphics.

Lara explores exotic locations lost to time – from the jungles of Peru to the ancient ruins of Greece, the deserts of Egypt, and a mysterious Mediterranean island shrouded in myth.

Then in Catalyst, gamers will face the biggest ever Tomb Raider world set in Northern India.

Lara then faces a race against time in the wake of a mythical cataclysm where rival treasure hunters are battling to control an ultimate power.

METROID PRIME 4: BEYOND (SWITCH 2 £49.99)



RETURN *On Switch 2*

Metroid is back, and the makers of this bombastic title deliver a great shooter game that feels like Switch 2's own Halo.

It's been some 18 years since the last mainline entry in this series and the clamour among fans to finally get their hands on the fast and frantic first-person shooter is huge. The good news is, Nintendo has delivered again, with a classic gun game that combines plenty of firefights with a strong story and puzzle moments.

And this time, the gimmick is psychic powers that our bounty hunter hero Samus Aran has acquired in her armoury.

Overall, Metroid Prime 4: Beyond is a much-needed bold and beautiful shooter game for the new Switch console. It's familiar to players of the past titles in the series, while also more modern thanks to the extra power under the hood of our fancy new machine. This is among the best on any iteration of the Switch.

APPLE

Apple has just announced its yearly App Store winners, including the best games for the firm's popular gadgets. Top gongs were dished out to Pokémon TCG Pocket for iPhone Game of the Year and Dredge for iPad Game of the Year.

The iconic Cyberpunk 2077: Ultimate Edition won Mac Game of the Year, and anyone with an Apple Vision Pro needs to try Porta Nubi, which turns your surroundings into an interactive puzzle.

MOTORING

TESTED
TRUSTED
DRIVEN

Toyota races ahead with GT

Toyota is going after the likes of Ferrari and Aston Martin with its new GR GT supercar.

The GR GT has been designed and developed by the Japanese firm's racing division, Toyota Gazoo Racing, which competes in some of the world's most famous motorsport races such as the FIA World Rally Championships and World Endurance Car racing.

Equipped with a 4.0-litre twin-turbocharged V8 petrol that develops 641bhp and more than 850Nm of torque, a 0-60mph time has not yet been revealed, though, Toyota claims the car will top out at 199mph.

Power is transmitted through an eight-speed automatic transmission to the rear wheels alone.

The GT is the first Toyota to use an all-aluminium body to improve rigidity, while the suspension features a new double-wishbone system to aid cornering.

Toyota has not announced prices yet, and it's unclear whether the GR GT will be coming to the UK.

DACIA LEADS THE WAY ON BUDGET

The Dacia Sandero remains Britain's most affordable new car.

All options come with a 1.0-litre three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine with 98bhp and 200Nm of torque, and the range starts with entry-level Essential. This has electric front windows, air-con and cruise control.

Mid-level Expression costs £15,765 with 16in wheels, electric rear windows, a 10in infotainment system and rear parking sensors. The flagship Journey comes in at £17,065 with 16in alloys, an electronic parking brake, climate-controlled air-con and wireless smartphone charging.

There is also a compact crossover, the Stepway, priced from £16,065 with roof bars and "Starkle" body cladding made from recycled plastics.

The updated range is available to order now, with deliveries starting early this year.

ELECTRIC G6 HAS THE XPENG FACTOR

Xpeng is set to launch its revised G6 electric SUV in the UK.

Priced from £39,990, the new G6 brings revisions to the original car, which was only introduced into the UK last March.

The new model will launch with a new all-wheel-drive Black Edition, which uses dual motors with a combined output of 480bhp. As a result, the G6 will go from 0-60mph in just four seconds. With an 80.8kWh battery, the G6 also uses 800-volt charging architecture which allows it to accept a maximum charge rate of up to 451kW. It means that a 10-80% top-up could be completed in as little as 12 minutes.

Prices for the new G6 start from £39,990 for the rear-wheel-drive, Standard Range model, or £44,990 for the Long Range version. The new dual-motor model starts from £49,990.

Citroën future is bold orange

Citroën has created a new concept car, the ELO, designed with space in mind.

At just over four metres, it is shorter than the C3 Aircross, yet offers seating for six people.

Based around an electric platform, the ELO has also been designed in collaboration with Goodyear, with both brands having a hand in the car's design.

Inside, the driver's seat can be made into a lounge-like space, while the seats can be removed to create a sleeping area. Doors open in opposite directions, alongside a lack of central pillar, which helps make exiting and entering much easier. And clever reflective film helps to project information across the full width of the dashboard.

It's unlikely the ELO will be produced but certain elements may be used on future Citroen models.

FREE MAGAZINES INSIDE THIS WEEKEND'S
DAILY EXPRESS SUNDAY EXPRESS
55 Brain Games FOR ADULTS
INSIDE SATURDAY 24-pages of puzzles
SUDOKU
MEMORY TESTS
ANAGRAMS
CODE CHALLENGES
INSIDE SUNDAY healthy eating recipe magazine
Slimming World eat well feel well

CLA-SS OF ITS OWN

Mercedes drives into the EV field confidently with its new CLA, with 462 miles before it requires a charge and a large display housing all the tech you need

The world of electric vehicles is progressing at a rapid pace and this car – the new Mercedes CLA – is hoping to be at the forefront of that. On paper, the CLA looks like it could be the ideal EV to combat range anxiety, but is that really the case? We've tested it to see what it's like.

WHAT'S NEW?

It sits atop a brand new platform, and while it does launch with an electric powertrain, Mercedes has also introduced a hybrid. That dedicated platform allows the CLA to bring both powertrains, widening its appeal.

The tech is sharper and newer, too, thanks to the help from both Microsoft and Google, and it is all housed in a super-large display.

WHAT'S UNDER THE BONNET?

Efficiency is the name of the game here. The exterior has been designed to be as slippery and aerodynamic as possible to maximise the range from this car's 85kWh battery. In fact, Mercedes claims a range of up to 462 miles, one of the longest you'll get from any EV currently on sale. The CLA also gets a two-speed gearbox designed to boost efficiency on the motorway.

It uses 800V charging architecture as standard, unlocking a very rapid charge speed of up to 320kW. Find an ultra-rapid charger and you'll be able to manage a 10-80% charge in just 22 minutes.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO DRIVE?

In many areas, the CLA feels quite normal to drive. It's not overly large, so it's a breeze to position, while a nice, low seating height feels sporty. There's plenty of adjustability, too, so you can get comfortable.

With a 0-60mph time of 6.3 seconds, the CLA isn't as quick as some EVs, but it's more than up to the task of getting you up to speed in good time.

That two-speed gearbox is ever-so-slightly noticeable, with a momentary pause in power when you're accelerating hard. However, it's the refinement and comfort which shines through – it delivers an upmarket-feeling ride when you're travelling at speed.

FACTS

Mercedes CLA

Price: £51,770
Engine: Single electric motor
Power: 268bhp
Torque: 335Nm
Max speed: 130mph
0-60mph: 6.3 seconds
Range: 462miles
Max charge speed: 320kW

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

The CLA has an exterior design which feels dictated entirely by aerodynamics. There's not too much to write home about in terms of styling touches or exciting features. It's all quite smooth.

Of course, there's a case of "spot the Mercedes star" to play with, and, if you look closely, you'll find them on what appears to be every panel. The front grille gets a unique lighting signature, too, and does look very futuristic at night.

WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE?

The interior is dominated by the large central infotainment screen, but what else is on offer? There are some well-sized cupholders and handy door bins. Overall, spaciousness isn't bad, and though the floor at the rear feels high, there's still enough room for taller passengers.

At 405 litres, the CLA's boot isn't bad in terms of size, and it's easy to access and quite deep. The CLA also benefits from a "frunk".

WHAT'S THE SPEC LIKE?

Prices start from £45,615 in standard 250+ Sport Edition trim, good value considering the technology. It's this spec which delivers the CLA's tip-top range of 481 miles, too.

Head in the direction of AMG Line Premium Edition, like our test car, and the price jumps to £51,770. You do get upgraded Multibeam headlights, interior ambient lighting and wireless charging, but the range does drop. That newly designed infotainment system is packed with features and looks great, though we couldn't get Apple CarPlay to work.

VERDICT

The new CLA feels like a step change in the world of EVs. With its range of over 400 miles, it's encroaching on the type of distance average cars could travel on a full tank, and if you're able to charge at home, running the CLA could cost a fraction of the cost amount it would take to fill an internal-combustion-engine car.

It's also very usable day-to-day, refined and quiet, and packed with technology. In essence, what's not to like about the Mercedes CLA?

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PLAN AHEAD FOR PLANTING

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The early months of the new year are ideal for getting organised and preparing a garden space before the growing season begins. This 3.5 x 2m polytunnel greenhouse offers a sheltered, structured area for vegetables, flowers and greenery. Its wide interior provides space to introduce shelving, helping plants and tools stay neat and accessible. Built with a steel frame and reinforced by metal rods, the structure is designed to stand firm. Included guy ropes and ground stakes allow it to be secured safely into the ground. Mesh windows support steady airflow, while the large roll up door allows easy entry for arranging, checking and caring for plants. Made from steel and polyethylene, it suits regular garden use throughout the year. Measuring 200 x 350 x 200cm, it fits comfortably into many gardens and supports calm, steady preparation for the months ahead without feeling rushed or cluttered. The generous height allows movement inside and the open layout helps keep daily tasks clear and organised while planning planting and placement before the season starts with confidence and control inside.

- ✓ Made from: Steel, polyethylene
- ✓ Dimensions: H200 x W350 x D200cm
- ✓ Assembly: Self-assembly required

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

THE NIGHT MANAGER, BBC1, 9.05PM/ RED EYE, ITV1, 9PM

SCHEDULE clashes no longer matter much (thank heavens for my Betamax video recorder) but it's still quite hard to choose which of these fine returning dramas to prioritise.

The Night Manager, (pictured above) with Tom Hiddleston back as undercover intelligence guy Jonathan Pine, is the slicker affair, while Red Eye with Jing Lusi as DS Hana Li (who learns there's a killer on the loose in the US embassy), is the one at which you're more likely to yell: "This is nonsense!" and thus hate yourself forever for becoming so hooked on the bloomin' thing.

JOE WICKS' NEW YEAR'S DAY, ITV1, 11.45AM

SINCE my New Year's resolution is to lose weight, it's good to know that fitness guru Joe Wicks has my back. I'd hate him to have my front; I wouldn't wish that on anybody.

To enable viewers like me (there'll be loads, I'm sure) to hit the ground running, Joe and his guests, including foodies Nisha Katona and Tilly Ramsay, plus psychologist Dr Julie Smith – oh, and Olly Murs, for some reason – will bring us speedy workouts, healthy recipes and tips on staying positive.

My only concern is that the year is already nearly 12 hours old by the time this show begins.

My resolutions typically last about four.

Pick of the day THE TRAITORS, BBC1, 8PM

PLAYFUL *Host Claudia Winkleman*

JOIN THE BEST KIND OF DARK FUN

DO YOU plan to watch this latest Traitors series? You should. In fact, don't just watch it. Take notes. That way, when you take part yourself, a couple of years from now, you'll have your tactics spot-on. "Me?" you cry. "I'd never apply for The Traitors."

Oh, but you will. Trust me. You just don't know it yet.

I base this on some research I've done, regarding the show's applicant numbers. Apparently, 1,500 people applied to take part in series one. By series three, this had risen to 300,000. Yes, 200 times the original figure.

Fast-forward again – another two years, to series five (the series after this one), assume a further 200-times increase, and what do we end up with? We end up with 60 million. So, yes, at this rate more than 86% of the current UK population – including you – will apply to take part in The Traitors' fifth series.

Remarkable, eh?

And what do these numbers say about us, do you think? Normally, when a TV series grows in popularity, it just means more and more of us are watching. But when more and more of us also to want to be directly involved, it suggests an even greater allure.

It suggests we're thinking: "I'd love to be a Traitor myself. I could happily do all that double-crossing and tell those barefaced lies. I'd be great!" The conclusion I draw from all this? Good of you to ask. My conclusion is it's a reaction to our exhaustingly virtue-signalling times, when we're forever being judged on how "kind" we can show ourselves to be.

"Show" being the operative word. The kindest people, from my own experience, tend to be those who don't bang on about it. The more someone trots out the K-word these days, the more I smell a rat. I much prefer people who, rather than aspiring to sainthood, accept that we all have our darker side, and who like to seek healthy, playful outlets for it.

Outlets such as taking part in The Traitors.

It's a game where, OK, rooting out the baddies can win you a lot of money. But it's also one where being one of the baddies yourself, and getting away with murder (although ideally not for real), can do that as well. And option two is surely way more fun.

BEST DOC

WILD LONDON, BBC1, 6.30PM

David Attenborough takes us on a tour of London's wildlife. Cameras follow a pair of peregrines nesting on the House of Parliament.

BEST CONTEST

THE GREAT NEW YEAR BAKE OFF C4, 6.40PM

Bake Off besties, aka legendary Bake Off bakers from past seasons, head into the tent to battle it out for the coveted New Year's cake stand.

BEST FILM

BACK TO THE FUTURE, BBC3, 7.10PM

"You built a time machine out of a DeLorean?" Sci-fi romp with Michael J. Fox playing a teen sent 30 years into the past by his scientist pal.

BEST SOAP

EASTENDERS, BBC1, 7.30PM

A flash forward provides spoilers for Max as we join him for New Year 2027 – what happened and why will slowly be revealed over the next year.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.

8.50 Tiddler Animation. (R)

9.15 FILM **Abominable** (2019, U) Animation, featuring the voice of Chloe Bennet. ★★★★

10.40 FILM **Minions: The Rise of Gru** (2022, U) Animated comedy prequel, featuring the voice of Steve Carell. ★★★

12.00noon Gladiators: Celebrity Special (R)

1.00 BBC News at One; Weather

1.30 The Archbishop of Canterbury Elect's New Year Message

1.35 The Scarecrows' Wedding Animated adaptation. (R)

2.00 The Traitors at the Proms Claudia Winkleman hosts this musical exploration of her hit series, with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, BBC Singers and guest vocalists.

3.15 FILM **The Sound of Music** (1965, U) Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. ★★★★★

6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather

6.20 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.20am Richard Osman's Festive House of Games (R)

7.20 Sign Zone: Wild Horses, the Rockies and Me (R)

8.20 Weatherman Walking The Pembrokeshire coastal path.

8.50 FILM **Letter from an Unknown Woman** (1948, PG) Romantic drama, starring Joan Fontaine and Louis Jourdan. ★★★★★

10.15 New Year's Day Concert: Live from Vienna 2026 The Vienna Philharmonic's traditional concert from the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in the heart of Vienna.

12.45pm Bargain Hunt (R)

1.30 Sign Zone: The Archbishop of Canterbury Elect's New Year Message

1.35 Escape to the Country (R)

2.35 FILM **Lawrence of Arabia** (1962, PG) Oscar-winning epic drama, starring Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif. ★★★★★

6.05 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth goes on a cruise. Christmas special from 1993, starring Patricia Routledge. (R)

ITV1

6.00am The Chase: The Bloopers A compilation of outtakes. (R)

7.00 FILM **Shrek 2** (2004, U) Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. ★★★★

8.40 Love Your New Year's Day with Alan Titchmarsh Bonnie Langford and Gregor Fisher join Alan for a chat.

10.15 James Martin's New Year's Day James celebrates the dawn of 2026 with England rugby player Chris Robshaw.

11.45 Joe Wicks' New Year's Day The fitness coach provides inspiration for a healthy year.

12.45pm ITV News; Weather

1.00 LIVE **ITV Racing: From Cheltenham** A meeting headlined by the Relkeel Hurdle, plus racing from Musselburgh and Windsor.

3.40 ITV Evening News; Weather

4.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars Lucrezia Millarini, Danny Miller, and Russell Watson take part.

5.00 The Chase Bean, Jack, Pam and Peter take part.

6.00 NEW **Time Is Money** Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.

Channel 4

6.15am Cheers Triple bill. (R)

7.35 The King of Queens (R)

8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond Double bill of the comedy. (R)

9.25 Frasier Double bill. (R)

10.30 A Place in the Sun (R)

11.30 Four in a Bed Five episodes. This week's competition kicks off at 17th-century country inn the Fox and Hounds; the rivals stay at Milberry Green Meadows glampsite in Surrey; at The Lord Bute in Dorset; the week's final visit is at the Pocklington in the heart of Leicester; Payment Day. (R)

2.00pm Channel 4 News

2.15 FILM **Raya and the Last Dragon** (2021, PG) Premiere. A warrior princess seeks the fabled last dragon to save the land of Kumandra from evil spirits. Animated fantasy, with the voices of Kelly Marie Tran and Awkwafina. ★★★★

4.25 FILM **Aladdin** (2019, PG) A street urchin unleashes the power of a genie. Live-action re-imagining of the animated Disney movie, with Will Smith and Mena Massoud. ★★★★

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.

9.25 Entertainment News on 5

9.40 FILM **Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest** (2006, 12) Captain Jack Sparrow battles to save his soul from the legendary Davy Jones and his fearsome sea monster. Adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom. ★★★★

12.35pm FILM **San Andreas** (2015, 12) Following an earthquake in California, a helicopter pilot makes a dangerous journey across the state to rescue his daughter. Disaster movie, with Dwayne Johnson. ★★★★

2.50 FILM **2012** (2009, 12) As the human race faces extinction in a global cataclysm, a writer tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster epic, starring John Cusack and Chiwetel Ejiofor. ★★★★

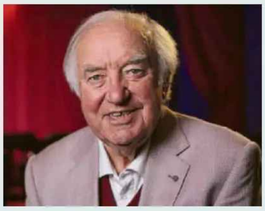
5.55 FILM **Crocodile Dundee** (1986, 15) An Australian hunter accompanies a reporter from the Outback to Manhattan. Comedy, starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski. ★★★★

9.05pm, THE NIGHT MANAGER: Tom Hiddleston

9.05pm, THE TRAITORS: UNCLOAKED: Ed Gamble

9pm, RED EYE: Jing Lusi and Martin Compston

6.40pm, THE GREAT NEW YEAR BAKE...: Paul, Alison, Noel & Prue



9pm, DAVE ALLEN: IN HIS OWN WORDS: Jimmy Tarbuck

BBC One

7

6.30 Wild London Veteran naturalist David Attenborough shares his intimate knowledge of the city's diverse wildlife.

7.30 EastEnders Max Branning finds himself in a situation on January 1, 2027 which will have huge consequences.

8

8.00 NEW **The Traitors** Claudia Winkleman returns with the game of backstabbing and trust, as 22 people descend on Ardross Castle in the hope of winning up to £120,000. The Traitors: Uncloaked is on BBC Two at 9.05pm.

9

9.05 NEW **The Night Manager** Tom Hiddleston reprises his role as soldier-turned-hotel night manager Jonathan Pine in the long-awaited return of the acclaimed drama. With Olivia Colman, Diego Calva and Douglas Hodge.

10

10.05 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special Agnes and the gang prepare for an incoming storm.

10.35 Shedites One-off comedy set in and around the sheds in an Irish village, where men find friendship and purpose while building and repairing things.

11

11.05 BBC News; Weather

11.25 FILM **Mission: Impossible 2** (2000, 15) A secret agent battles a former spy-turned-criminal mastermind intent on stealing a deadly man-made virus. Action thriller sequel, starring Tom Cruise. ★★★

12 MIDNIGHT

1.25am The Celebrity Apprentice: Christmas Special. Part one of two. Famous faces including AJ Odudu, Rob Rinder, JB Gill and Angela Scanlon make and sell gingerbread biscuits to raise money for Children in Need. (R) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.30-6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two

7.05 Richard Osman's Festive House of Games With Alex Brooker, Rhys Darby, Joanna Page and Molly Rainford.

7.35 Celebrity Mastermind Charlotte Hawkins, Stephen Bailey, Ekow Quartey and Belles Berry are in the chair.

8.05 Only Connect Single Special Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts as the Brews take on the Irregulars. (R)

8.35 Christmas University Challenge Another two teams of alumni return to contest the second semi-final.

9.05 NEW **The Traitors: Uncloaked** Ed Gamble presents the companion show in which he and his guests discuss the first episode.

9.35 Outnumbered First episode of the comedy, starring Hugh Dennis and Claire Skinner. (R)

10.05 QI A selection of the best moments from the V series. (R)

10.40 Match of the Day Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, with Sunderland v Manchester City at Stadium of Light and Liverpool v Leeds United at Anfield.

11.40 Titanic Sinks Tonight Double bill. Dramatised documentary recounting the ill-fated voyage. The opening instalment begins with crew member Fred Fleet spotting a black mass right ahead; the rescue mission unravels. (R)

1.40am Sign Zone: Inside the Christmas Factory with Paddy and Cherry. Paddy McGuinness and Cherry Healey learn how gingerbread is made. (R) **2.40** Sign Zone: Here We Go (R) **3.10** Sign Zone: My Life at Christmas: Anita Rani Meets Floella Benjamin (R) **4.10-6.35am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

7.00 Emmerdale Soap following the ups and downs of village life amid the scenery of the Dales. There is a sinister start to the new year, while a happy surprise has a dangerous undercurrent and Ray hopes his dream can come true.

8.00 Coronation Street Drama from the cobbles. Becky resorts to extreme measures to achieve her goal, Todd flees after Theo unleashes his temper, and Debbie's friends surprise her with a pre-wedding pamper party.

9.00 NEW **Red Eye** DS Hana Li is summoned to investigate the murder of a US diplomatic courier at Heathrow, while a Russian threat is received onboard a UK Government jet. Return of the thriller, with Jing Lusi and Martin Compston.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.15 Romesh Ranganathan's Parents' Evening Christmas Special Featuring Larry Lamb and his son George, Motsi Mabuse and her mum Dudu, and Josh Widdicombe and his dad Tom. Last in series. (R)

11.15 Red Eye DS Hana Li is summoned to investigate the murder of a US diplomatic courier at Heathrow, while a Russian threat is received onboard a UK Government jet. Return of the thriller, with Jing Lusi and Martin Compston. (R)

12.15am Shop on TV **3.00** Joe Wicks' New Year's Day (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** You Bet! On Tour Christmas Special. Stephen Mulhern hosts a festive edition of the gameshow from Kimbolton Castle in Cambridgeshire, where hopefuls complete for a £5,000 prize. (R)

Channel 4

6.40 The Great New Year Bake Off Hosts Alison Hammond and Noel Fielding welcome pairs of bakers into the tent, inviting them to battle it out for the coveted new year's cake stand. Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith judge the offerings.

8.00 Judi Dench: Shakespeare, My Family and Me The actress investigates a story that one of her ancestors met Shakespeare in 1606, the year he wrote three of his plays and Londoners were reeling from the Gunpowder Plot. (R)

9.05 Gogglebox 2025 As the Goggleboxers hang up their Christmas stockings, a bumper edition of the show takes a very merry look back at the best TV of 2025, with cameras capturing their instant reactions to the year's comedies, thrillers, dramas, soaps and news. (R)

10.35 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2025 Question master Jimmy Carr invites panellists Jonathan Ross, Richard Ayoade, Katherine Ryan, Nick Mohammed, Roisin Conaty and Lou Sanders to battle it out to see who knows the most about the year that's been. Helping Jimmy to ask the big questions are actor Charles Dance, the children of Mitchell Brook Primary School and a host of guest celebrity question-setters. (R)

12.30am Greg Davies: Firing Cheeseballs at a Dog (R) **1.40** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **2.30** Travel Man (R) **2.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **3.50** George Clarke's Old House, New Home (R) **4.45** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) **5.05-6.00am** Britain's Best Woodworker (R)

5

7.30 World's Strongest Man 2025: The Final Action from the Grand Final, held at California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Ten men competed for the title won by Tom Stoltman last year, with a world record falling in the Hercules Hold, and the competition coming to a dramatic head in the Atlas Stones. Presented by James Richardson, Eddie Hall and Michelle Ackerley, with commentary from Danny Wallace and Colin Bryce. Last in series.

9.00 Dave Allen: In His Own Words Documentary charting the comedian's career, featuring insights from collaborators Jacquie Clarke and Sabina Franklyn, alongside Jimmy Tarbuck, John Lloyd and Paul Jackson.

10.25 FILM **Air Force One** (1997, 15) The American president is forced to take drastic measures to save his family when their plane is hijacked by Russian terrorists demanding the release of a jailed radical general. Meanwhile, the vice president tries to manage the crisis from Washington and has to decide whether to shoot the aircraft down. Action thriller, starring Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman, Glenn Close, Dean Stockwell and William H Macy. ★★★★

1.15am PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** A Farm Through Time. Farm life during the Second World War. (R) **3.50** The Yorkshire Vet **4.15** Friends: double bill (R) **5.05** Entertainment News on 5 **5.10** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2

FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **8.20** Celebrity Dinner Date **10.25** FILM Nanny McPhee (2005, U) Period fantasy. ★★★★ **12.30pm** FILM Matilda (1996, PG) Children's fantasy comedy. ★★★★ **2.25** FILM Shrek the Third (2007, U) Animated sequel. ★★★ **4.15** FILM Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (2018, PG) Musical sequel. ★★★★★

6.25 FILM **Jurassic World** (2015, 12) Action adventure sequel, starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard. ★★★★

9.00 FILM **Fast X** (2023, 12) Dominic Toretto and his family are targeted by the vengeful son of drug kingpin Hernan Reyes. Action sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Michelle Rodriguez. ★★★

11.45 Family Guy Quagmire takes responsibility for a baby who looks like him, while Stewie clones himself.

12.15am Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.45-3.00am** Unwind with ITV

ITVQuiz

FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Lingo **10.00** Tenable **11.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win **12.00noon** Beat the Chasers: four episodes **4.05** Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Celebrity Special

5.05 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Celebrity Special Stephen Fry and Jeanette Kwakye compete for charity.

6.10 Tipping Point Double bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz show in which four players take on a machine in the hope of winning the £10,000 jackpot.

8.10 The 1% Club Rollover Four episodes. Lee Mack hosts a special edition of the quiz in which the prize pot that is not won on one show is carried over to the next day's edition, meaning a potential jackpot of £500,000. What's more, anyone who makes it through to the final question automatically comes back to compete again the following day.

12.00m't The 1% Club Rollover **12.55** Romesh Ranganathan's Parents' Evening **1.50** Unwind **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3

FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Film Fan's Guide to Liverpool Ali Plumb explores movie locations in Liverpool.

7.10 FILM **Back to the Future** (1985, PG) A teenager travels back in time and gets stuck in the 1950s – where he has to make sure his parents fall in love. Sci-fi comedy adventure, with Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd. ★★★★★

9.00 FILM **Back to the Future Part II** (1989, PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★

10.40 FILM **Back to the Future Part III** (1990, PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★★

12.30am FILM Clueless (1995, 12) ★★★★ **2.00** Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special 2022 **2.30** Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special 2023 **3.00** Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special 2024 **3.30-4.00am** Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special 2025

BBC4

FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm New Year's Day Concert: Highlights from Vienna 2026 Classical concert celebrating the New Year, conducted by Yannick Nezet-Seguin, and broadcast live from the Musikverein concert hall.

9.00 FILM **The Great Escape** (1963, PG) Rebellious Allied prisoners of war are sent to a supposedly escape-proof maximum-security detention camp during the Second World War, and plan a breakout. Second World War drama, starring Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Richard Attenborough. ★★★★★

11.45 FILM **The Italian Job** (1969, PG) A crook recruits a gang to steal $4million in gold bullion. Crime comedy, starring Michael Caine and Noel Coward. ★★★★★

1.20am Michael Caine: Talking Pictures **2.15-3.15am** Bob Monkhouse: The Last Stand

GB News

FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Tomorrow's news, tonight. All the major stories making the front pages and full coverage of all the breaking news at home and abroad.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave

FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** Top Gear Botswana Special **8.20** Top Gear **10.00** World's Most Dangerous Roads **11.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **1.05pm** Ghosts: six episodes **5.00** Top Gear

6.20 Would I Lie to You? Four episodes.

9.00 QI XL An extended edition of the quiz, as Stephen Fry asks Victoria Coren Mitchell, Bill Bailey, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies questions on the topic of jargon.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Guest host Jack Dee and panellists Nabil Abdulrashid and Hannah Fry join team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop in an extended edition from April 2022.

11.00 Would I Lie to You? Double bill. With Stephen Bailey, Asim Chaudhry, Gemma Collins and Sally Lindsay; with Tom Allen, Sarah Greene, Ugo Monye and Morgana Robinson taking part.

12.20am Mock the Week **1.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.15** Australian Ninja Warrior **3.30-4.00am** Meet the Richardsons

U&Drama

FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.00** Sister Boniface Mysteries **8.00** Doctors **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.20** Classic Casualty **11.25** The Bill **12.30pm** Classic EastEnders **1.50** Pride and Prejudice: four episodes

6.40 Pride and Prejudice Double bill.

9.00 Harry Wild Harry, Lola and Fergus are invited to a weekend-long 1920s themed murder mystery party at a hotel on a secluded island, but before they arrive, a real murder takes place.

10.00 New Tricks The body of a missing computer expert turns up in a morgue under a false name, so Strickland asks the team to investigate. Brian struggles to accept Steve as a Ucos member.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part one of two. Tara Fitzgerald joins the team as forensic scientist Eve, delving into the death of a teenage boy on a building site.

12.40am Hotel Portofino. Nish has an epiphany. **1.55** A Small Light **3.05** Harry Wild **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4

FREEVIEW 13

6.00am The Tiger Who Came to Tea **6.30** We're Going on a Bear Hunt **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.10** The Goldbergs **10.10** The Simpsons: four episodes **12.10pm** FILM Frozen 2 (2019, U) Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel. ★★★★ **2.15** The Simpsons: eight episodes

6.15 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.15 FILM **The Simpsons Movie** (2007, PG) Animated comedy, with the voices of Dan Castellaneta and Julie Kavner. ★★★★

9.00 FILM **The Inbetweeners 2** (2014, 15) Comedy sequel spun off from the hit sitcom, starring Simon Bird. ★★★★

11.00 Gogglebox Reviews of Celebrity Hunted, Britain's Got Talent, Reunion Hotel and Citadel. From May 2023.

12.05am Naked Attraction **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.20** Gogglebox **3.15** Naked Attraction **4.05** The Goldbergs **4.55-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4

FREEVIEW 18

8.55am A Place in the Sun **10.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **3.10** Four in a Bed: five episodes **5.50** A Place in the Sun

6.55 Grand Designs Double bill. Kevin McCloud sees the progress on Jon and Noreen's treehouse in Gloucestershire; physical therapist Ara and researcher Tony set out to create a home focused on health and wellbeing near Henley-on-Thames while they live on site and manage the project themselves.

9.00 George Clarke's Building Home George meets married couple Chris and Ellie, who bought a run-down bungalow from his grandparents in Lancashire's Ribble Valley – but when it turned out the house wasn't suitable to live in, they began building a new house from scratch.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

12.10am 999: On the Front Line **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.50am** Food Unwrapped's Caribbean Adventure

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.20-1.30pm BBC Wales Today. The headlines; Weather **6.20-6.30pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

WALES As BBC2 except: 1.35pm FILM Lawrence of Arabia (1962, PG) An enigmatic British Army officer tries to unite the Arab nations against the Turks during the First World War. Oscar-winning epic drama, starring Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif. ★★★★★ **5.05** Best of Weatherman Walking. Derek Brockway revisits three memorable walks from mid-Wales, featuring visits to the Craig-Y-Nos estate, Abergynolwyn and Llanwrtyd Wells. **5.15-7.35pm** LIVE Scrum V. Ospreys v Cardiff (kick-off 5.30pm). All the action from the United Rugby Championship match between the rivals at Dunraven Brewery Field.

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.15pm** LIVE Sgorio. Colwyn Bay v Flint Town United (kick-off 12.30pm). Coverage of the JD Cymru Premier match at Blue Turtle Arena. **2.30** LIVE Clwb Rygbi. Dragons v Scarlets (kick-off 3.00pm). Coverage of the United Rugby Championship match, which is taking place at Rodney Parade. **5.05** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **5.15** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer. As night falls over the capital, Elin Fflur shares a warm fireside conversation with singer and actress Tara Bethan. Last in series. **6.00** Geraint Thomas: y Daith. As cyclist Geraint Thomas' sparkling career comes to an end on the streets of Cardiff in the Tour of Britain, a chance to look back at 20 extraordinary years in the saddle. **7.00** Y Deis: Nadolig. Gameshow in which two teams of two rely on a combination of knowledge, strategy and, like any roll of the dice, a little bit of luck. **7.30** Rownd a Rownd. Things go from bad to worse for Iestyn when Britney begins to intervene. A misunderstanding causes tension in Elen's house as Mathew suspects she is pregnant. **8.00** Cefn Gwlad. Profile of butcher Ieuan Edwards, one of Conwy's most successful businessmen, who bought his first shop at the age of 20. **9.00** Con Jones: Twyllwr Gorau'r Byd. Part one of two. The story of Welshman Kenner Elias Jones, dubbed by US Immigration Service as 'the world's best conman'. **10.00-11.35pm** Y Crwydryn. Country singer Wil Tan embarks on a journey across Wales, meeting fellow musicians and friends to reflect on life, ageing and what it means to keep going.

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **Big Bash League** Melbourne Renegades v Sydney Sixers. At Marvel Stadium.

8.10 LIVE **Big Bash League** Hobart Hurricanes v Perth Scorchers. Coverage from Ninja Stadium.

11.30 Sky Sports News **12.00noon** Gillette Soccer Special: Pre-Match. Build up.

12.30 LIVE **World Darts Championship** The afternoon session on day 18 at Alexandra Palace in London, with two quarter-final matches.

4.30 Gillette Labs Soccer Special

5.00 LIVE **Premier League** Liverpool v Leeds United (kick-off 5.30pm). Coverage from Anfield.

7.45 LIVE **Premier League** Sunderland v Manchester City (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the top-flight match at The Stadium of Light.

10.00 LIVE **World Darts Championship** Coverage of the evening session on day 18.

11.00 A League of Their Own. With Harry Maguire and Tom Davis. **12.00m't** Sky Sports News

1.30-6.00am LIVE **United Cup Tennis** Spain v Argentina. From RAC Arena in Perth, Australia.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am LIVE **Big Bash League** Melbourne Renegades v Sydney Sixers. At Marvel Stadium.

8.10 LIVE **Big Bash League** Hobart Hurricanes v Perth Scorchers. Coverage from Ninja Stadium.

11.30 Best of England v South Africa **11.45** Best of ICC WT20 **12.00noon** SA20 **2.00** Big Bash League **3.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket

3.20 LIVE **SA20** Joburg Super Kings v Durban Super Giants. Coverage from Johannesburg.

7.00 Big Bash League **9.00** SA20 **11.00** Big Bash League **2.20am** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **2.30** Best of England v South Africa **2.45** Best of ICC WT20 **3.00** SA20 **4.00** Big Bash League **5.00-6.00am** SA20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** 150 Years of the Edinburgh Derby **11.00** Bundesliga Special: Midseason Review

12.00noon LIVE **EFL** Blackburn Rovers v Wrexham (kick-off 12.30pm). Coverage of the Championship match from Ewood Park.

2.45 LIVE **EFL** Wycombe Wanderers v Cardiff City (kick-off 3.00pm). Coverage of the League One match at Adams Park, as the teams face each other for the first time since the 2020/21 season.

5.15 LIVE **EFL** Sheffield United v Leicester City (kick-off 5.30pm). Coverage from Bramall Lane.

8.00 EFL Cup Highlights **9.00** 150 Years of the Edinburgh Derby **10.00** Bundesliga Special: Midseason Review **11.00** SPFL Round-Up **11.15** EFL Highlights **2.45am** EFL Greatest Games **3.00-6.00am** SPFL Highlights

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am The Open – Official Films **8.00** Sunday At The Open **10.00** The Open. The final day.

7.45pm Trey's Tips **8.00** Underdogs: The Untold Story of The 138th Open Championship **9.00** This is Open Country **10.00** TGL

12.00m't-6.00am The Open – Official Films

TNT SPORTS 1

8.15am TNT Sports Cricket Reload

9.15 LIVE **Cross Country Skiing World Cup** Coverage of the men's pursuit classic 15km in the latest meeting of the season, from Toblach, Italy.

10.30 The Gallagher PREM – The Wrap Up. Look back at week eight. **10.45** TNT Sports Reload

11.15 LIVE **Cross Country Skiing World Cup** Coverage of the women's pursuit classic 15km.

12.45pm LIVE **Ski Jumping World Cup** The men's HS142, part of the Ski Jumping World Cup in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

3.00 LIVE **Ski Jumping World Cup** Coverage of the women's HS137 event in the World Cup meeting from Oberstdorf, Germany.

4.45 Sports Reload **5.00** Isuzu UTE A-League **7.00** Fishing: On the Bank **8.00** Cyclocross **9.00** The Edge **10.00** Gallagher PREM – The Wrap Up **10.15** Documentary **12.00m't** MLB Classic **2.00** Documentary **2.15** The Edge

3.15-6.30am LIVE **T20 Super Smash** A match from New Zealand's domestic T20 competition.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am Roland Garros. A review of the best action. **7.00** Athletics World Championship

8.00 LIVE **Isuzu UTE A-League** Western Sydney Wanderers v Macarthur FC (kick-off 8.00am).

10.00 Serie A – Full Impact **10.30** The Edge **11.30** Documentary **11.45** Fishing: On the Bank

12.45pm LIVE **Cyclocross** The latest Women's Trophy meeting of the season in Baal, Belgium.

1.45 TNT Sports Reload. The best bits.

2.00 LIVE **Cyclocross** The latest Men's Trophy meeting of the season, held in Baal, Belgium.

3.15 TNT Sports Cricket Reload **3.45** TNT Sports Reload **4.00** Premier League – The Big Interview **4.30** Inside Serie A **5.00** The Edge

6.00 Original Documentary **7.00** Tour de France Women **8.00** Tour de France Men Highlights **9.00** La Vuelta Men **10.00** Giro d'Italia Men Highlights **12.00m't** The Gruppetto **12.30** Cyclocross **1.30-4.30am** MotoGP Classics

BEST OF THE REST – LIVE SPORT

2.50-5.00pm LIVE **EFL** Derby County v Middlesbrough (kick-off 3.00pm). (Sky Sports +)

7.00-11.00pm LIVE **World Darts Championship** The evening session on day 18. (Sky Sports +)

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **7.00** On the Buses **8.05** Lewis **10.10** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.15pm** FILM Goodnight Mister Tom (1998/PG) John Thaw stars in this adaptation of Michelle Magorian's novel, playing a grumpy widower whose life is changed when an evacuee from London is billeted in his cottage. ★★★★ **2.20** FILM Carry on Doctor (1967/PG) Comedy, starring Jim Dale. ★★★ **4.10** FILM Carry on up the Khyber (1968/PG) Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams and Sid James. ★★★ **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Vera **10.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **11.55** Lewis **1.50-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Minder **9.10** Magnum, PI **10.10** Kojak **11.15** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **12.20pm** The Professionals **1.25** Magnum, PI **2.25** Kojak **3.30** Boon **4.40** The Professionals **5.45** Minder **6.50** Sharpe **9.00** English Football League Highlights **10.30** FILM The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009/15) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta. ★★★ **12.35am** Boon **1.35** The Professionals **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Unwind with ITV

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Entertainment News on 5 **8.15** FILM Miss Potter (2006/PG) Biographical period drama, starring Renee Zellweger. ★★★ **10.05** FILM The Railway Children Return (2022/PG) Drama sequel, starring Beau Gadsdon and Jenny Agutter. ★★★★ **12.10pm** FILM From Time to Time (2009/PG) Family fantasy adventure, starring Alex Etel. ★★★★ **2.05** FILM Shanghai Noon (2000/12) Comedy western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. ★★★ **4.15** FILM Shanghai Knights (2003/12) Martial arts comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. ★★★ **6.30** FILM Jupiter Ascending (2015/12) An ordinary young woman discovers she is the Queen of the Earth, and has the power to save it from destruction. Sci-fi adventure, starring Mila Kunis and Channing Tatum. ★★ **9.00** FILM Immortals (2011/15) A man is chosen by the Greek gods to prevent a power-mad king from conquering the human and immortal worlds. Mythological adventure, with Henry Cavill and Mickey Rourke. ★★★ **11.10** FILM Prometheus (2012/15) A spacecraft travels to another world in search of aliens that may have created the human race. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller, with Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender. ★★★★ **1.45am** The Good Wife **3.25** Motorway Patrol **3.50-4.00am** Entertainment News

REALLY Freeview 17

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Long Lost Family: Born Without Trace **1.00pm** A Place in the Sun **6.00** The Repair Shop **7.00** Salvage Hunters **8.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **10.00** Long Lost Family **12.00m't** Help! My House Is Haunted **1.00** Celebrity Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

Live Premier League

Sky Sports Main Event, 5pm

Virgil van Dijk (left) and his Liverpool teammates will be hoping to begin the New Year with a victory and move up the table. Their opponents at Anfield this evening are Leeds United.

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.05** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **11.05** FILM Hondo (1953/PG) Western, starring John Wayne. ★★★★ **12.55pm** FILM El Dorado (1966/PG) Western, starring John Wayne and Robert Mitchum. ★★★★★ **3.30** FILM True Grit (1969/PG) Western, starring John Wayne. ★★★★ **6.05** FILM Rio Bravo (1959/PG) A sheriff and his drunken deputy make a courageous stand against hired guns threatening to tear apart a peace-loving town. Howard Hawks' Western, with John Wayne and Dean Martin. ★★★★★ **9.00** FILM Open Range (2003/12) Two cattle drovers and their hired hands clash with thugs in the pay of a small-town sheriff. Western, directed by and starring Kevin Costner. With Robert Duvall and Annette Bening. ★★★★ **11.45** FILM Seraphim Falls (2006/15) An injured Union soldier flees through a mountain wilderness pursued by a vengeful Confederate officer. Western thriller, with Pierce Brosnan. ★★★ **2.00am** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **3.00-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Notre-Dame: The Renaissance **7.40** 42nd Street **9.55** Andre Rieu: The Flying Dutchman **12.25pm** Andre Rieu: Love Is All Around **2.25** Andre Rieu: Live in Bahrain **3.50** FILM Barefoot in the Park (1967/PG) A couple move into a small, shabby flat in New York's Greenwich Village and have to deal with oddball neighbours. Comedy, with Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. ★★★★ **6.00** Battle of the Irish Dancers **7.00** The Sound of Music – Live! **9.15** Rod Stewart: It Had to Be You **11.15** The Eagles: Live from the LA Forum **2.10am** Eric Clapton: 24 Nights **4.40** Discovering: Paul Simon **5.05-6.00am** The Art of Architecture

U&GOLD

7.10-4.00am Only Fools and Horses. Fifteen back-to-back episodes of the comedy.

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Coastal Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** The World at War **1.00pm** Bangers & Cash **3.00** Frozen Planet **6.00** Red Dwarf **8.00** Bangers & Cash **9.00** Flipping Bangers. Work on a VW Beetle. **10.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00m't** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **2.00-3.00am** Frozen Planet

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **11.00** Death in Paradise **9.00pm** Allegiance. An encounter with a former convict lands Sabrina in the middle of a murder interrogation. **10.00** Father Brown **12.00m't-4.00am** Death in Paradise

SKY MAX

6.00am Flintoff's Road to Nowhere **7.00** The Ultimate Adventure Movies **8.00** Rob & Romesh vs Shakespeare **9.00** FILM Stargate Origins: Catherine (2018/12) Catherine Langford enlists the help of two soldiers to venture into the Stargate and save the world. Sci-fi prequel, starring Ellie Gall. ★★ **11.00** FILM Stargate: Continuum (2008/PG) Sci-fi adventure, starring Ben Browder. ★★ **1.00pm** FILM Stargate – Ark of Truth (2008/12) The SG-1 team journeys to another galaxy to stop an invasion of Earth. Sci-fi adventure based on the TV series, with Michael Shanks. ★★★ **3.00** Fear the Walking Dead **9.00** Ted **3.00am** A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Urban Secrets **8.00** Game of Thrones. Nineteen back-to-back episodes of the drama. **5.00-6.00am** The Guest Wing

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Border Patrol **7.00** Nothing to Declare **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** UK Border Force **11.00** Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Caught on Dashcam **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Caught on Dashcam **9.00** FBI **10.00** FBI: International **11.00** Caught on Dashcam **12.00m't** The Rookie **1.00** FBI **2.00** Caught on Dashcam **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00-6.00am** UK Border Force

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Community **11.00** Sex and the City **3.30pm** The Office (US) **9.00** Micky Flanagan – An' Another Fing Live **10.40** Alan Carr: Regional Trinket. A stand-up comedy show. **11.45** Katherine Ryan: First Born Daughter **1.15am** And Just Like That **3.20** Entourage **3.50-5.00am** Curb Your Enthusiasm

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Divers **10.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Kindig Customs **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **9.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **10.00** In the Eye of the Storm **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Moonshiners **1.00** Marooned with Ed Stafford **2.00** In the Eye of the Storm **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Air Crash Investigation **9.00** Ice Road Rescue **11.00** Engineering Europe **12.00noon** Car S.O.S **3.00** Construction Fails **4.00** Air Crash Investigation **6.00** The Battle for Britain: Drain the Oceans **7.00** Nazi Megastructures **8.00** Inside the SS **10.00** Unmasking the Killers of the Third Reich **11.00** Hitler's Teen Killers **12.00m't** Air Crash Investigation **2.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Lords of War **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Exotic Animal ER: Double Dose

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.00am Breakfast with Mylo and Rosie **10.00** Ore and Lauren **2.00pm** Emil and Lauren **6.00** Radio 1's Sound Of 2026 with Jack Saunders **7.00** Radio 1's Sound Of **8.00** BBC Proms 2025: JADE & Royal Northern Sinfonia **9.00** Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **12.00m't** Radio 1's Live Lounge **1.00** Danny Howard's Club Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Workout Anthems **5.00-6.00am** Pop Anthems

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.00am Tony Blackburn's Sounds of Soul **7.00** OJ Borg **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00noon** Pick of the Pops **3.00** Your Ultimate Stevie Wonder Song **5.00** The Wonder of Stevie with DJ Spoony **6.00** Radio 2 in the Park – Highlights **8.00** Radio 2 Piano Room **10.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **12.00m't** Phil Williams **3.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** New Year's Day Concert **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Icons of British Light Music **5.00** Words and Music **6.15** New Generation Artists **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.15** The Lebrecht Interview **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am How the Muppet Show Began in Britain **7.00** Today **9.00** The Media Show **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Larkin Revisited **12.00noon** News **12.02** Pick of the Year **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** An Almanac of Anxiety: In Search of a Calmer Mind **2.00** The Archers **2.16** Archers Drop-in **2.20** The Farmer's Guide to Animal Farm **2.50** This Week in History **2.56** Archers Drop-in **3.00** This Natural Life **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal **3.30** Hearing Aids **4.00** Archers Drop-in **4.05** Ramblings **4.30** BBC Inside Science **5.00** Archers Drop-in **5.03** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.13** Archers Drop-in **6.15** Ian Hislop's Oldest Jokes **6.30** Bill Dare: Comedy Alchemist **7.02** Archers Drop-in **7.05** The Archers **7.15** The Archers: Truth and Lies **8.00** The Archers Podcast **8.30** Bass Notes **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Strong Message Here **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: A Long Winter **11.00** Radical with Amol Rajan **11.30** BBC National Short Story Award 2025 **12.00m't** News **12.15** Raising Hare **12.30** Larkin Revisited **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Echo **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

CHOICE

Your Ultimate Stevie Wonder Song

Radio 2, 3pm

To mark 60 years since Stevie Wonder's first UK Top 40 hit, and 50 years since the release of his landmark album *Songs In The Key Of Life*, Radio 2 called on listeners to vote for their favourite Stevie song from a shortlist of his 60 most played solo tracks. Trevor Nelson counts them down today.

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am The Wayne Rooney Show **7.00** Breakfast **10.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00noon** 5 Live Sport **1.00** Sporting Giants: Mo Salah **2.00** Football Daily **2.30** 5 Live Sport **6.00** 606 **8.00** Tony Livesey **10.30** Game's Gone **11.00** F1: Chequered Flag **12.00m't** 5 Live Golf **1.00** Laura McGhie **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 7.00am Make a Difference 2025 **8.00** Owen Money **11.00** Tom Price's New Year's Day Celebrity Guestlist **2.00pm** Radio Wales Sport **5.00** Scrum V Live **7.30** Aleighcia Scott **10.00** Lois Cernyw **12.00m't** Relax **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Tim Lihoreau **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Aled Jones **2.00pm** Margherita Taylor **6.00** John Brunning **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Jay Lawrence **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Dan Noble **7.00** Sarah Champion **10.00** Tim Burgess's Listening Party. An album track by track. **12.00m't-6.00am** Ben Coley

Movies

FILM4

11.00am The Lady Eve (1941/U) Comedy, starring Barbara Stanwyck. ★★★★★

12.50pm The Straight Story (1999/U) David Lynch's drama, starring Richard Farnsworth and Sissy Spacek. ★★★★★

3.05 The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1974/U) Fantasy, starring John Phillip Law. ★★★

5.10 Stormbreaker (2006/PG) Spy adventure, with Alex Pettyfer and Mickey Rourke. ★★★

6.55 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008/12) Sci-fi remake, starring Keanu Reeves. ★★★

9.00 Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One (2023/12) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell. ★★★★

12.15am Bad Teacher (2011/15) Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake. ★★★

2.05-4.00am Late Night with the Devil (2023/15) Horror, with David Dastmalchian. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.30am 28 Years Later (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★

8.30 Karate Kid: Legends (2025/12) Drama sequel, starring Jackie Chan. ★★★

10.20 A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) See 6.15pm. ★★★★

12.10pm Sinners (2025/15) See 12.50am. ★★★★

2.30 28 Years Later (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★

4.30 The Phoenician Scheme (2025/15) Wes Anderson's comedy, starring Benicio Del Toro and Mia Threapleton. ★★★★

6.15 A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★

8.00 28 Years Later (2025/15) Horror sequel, starring Jodie Comer. ★★★★

10.00 Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (2025/12) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell. ★★★★

12.50am Sinners (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★

3.10 Friendship (2024/15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Kate Mara. ★★★★

5.00-6.00am Sky Cinema Preview-Jan 2026

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

5.15pm Empire of the Sun (1987/PG) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, with Christian Bale and John Malkovich. ★★★★

8.00 Legends of the Fall (1994/15) Period drama, with Anthony Hopkins. ★★★★

10.15 American Sniper (2014/15) Biopic, with Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller. ★★★★

12.35am Jackie (2016/15) Biopic, with Natalie Portman and Peter Sarsgaard. ★★★★

2.30 The Color Purple (2023/12) Musical drama, starring Fantasia Barrino. ★★★★

5.00-7.10am Dallas Buyers Club (2013/15) Drama, with Matthew McConaughey. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.35pm Yogi Bear (2010/U) Comedy, with the voice of Dan Aykroyd. ★★★

6.00 E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982/U) Sci-fi fantasy, starring Henry Thomas. ★★★★★

8.05 Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (2024/12) Supernatural comedy adventure sequel, starring Paul Rudd and Carrie Coon. ★★★

10.05 Grow (2025/PG) Comedy, starring Golda Rosheuvel and Priya-Rose Brookwell. ★★★

11.55 Bookworm (2024/12) Family comedy, starring Elijah Wood and Nell Fisher. ★★★

1.45am The Portable Door (2023/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Christoph Waltz. ★★★★

3.50 The Tiger Rising (2022/PG) Family drama, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★

5.40-7.30am Robin and the Hoods (2024/PG) Comedy, starring Naomie Harris. ★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

5.15pm The Flemish Farm (1943/PG) Fact-based Second World War adventure, starring Clive Brook and Clifford Evans. ★★★

6.55 The Brothers The drama's first episode.

8.00 Mark Saber Detective drama series.

8.30 That's My Boy Mollie Sugden stars.

9.05 The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club Featuring Elaine Delmar.

9.55 The Appointment (1981/15) Horror, starring Edward Woodward. ★★★

11.45 Confessions of a Window Cleaner (1974/18) Sex comedy, starring Robin Askwith and Anthony Booth. ★★

1.30am Too Young to Love (1960/12) Drama, starring Thomas Mitchell. ★★★

3.10-5.00am You Will Remember (1941/U) Biopic of composer Leslie Stuart, starring Robert Morley and Emlyn Williams. ★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

5.00pm Murder, She Wrote Double bill.

7.00 Castle A rock star is murdered.

8.00 Unforgettable Crime drama. Carrie investigates a lethal poisoning in a hotel.

9.00 Along Came a Spider (2001/15) Thriller prequel, starring Morgan Freeman. ★★★★

11.15 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: May and June Crime drama, with Phoebe Nicholls.

1.30am The Wedding Stalker (2017/PG) Thriller, starring Heather Morris. ★★★

3.00 Eyewitness (2017/PG) Thriller, with Lindy Booth and Craig Anthony Olejnik. ★★★★

4.25-5.25am Hart to Hart Detective drama.

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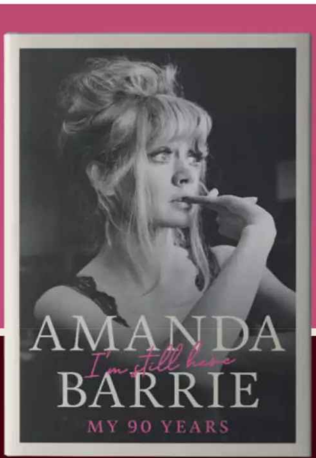

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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If we're paying Shamima's legal fees pull plug now

WHO has been paying Shamima Begum's legal fees in a case which has been ongoing for years?

If, as I suspect, it's us, the British taxpayers, then it should be stopped at once.

There should be a cap on all costs, it cannot go on indefinitely.

A decision was made by government to strip her of British citizenship backed by our Supreme Court, therefore the European Court of Human Rights should stay out of our business and any others in the future.

And I don't want to hear "do-gooders" saying she was only a child. Young, yes, but old enough to plan the trip and travel to Syria knowing what Isis was all about.

She's made her bed, she can now lie in it.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Cheshire

Four Isis bride questions, one answer – no comment

THE European Court of Human Rights has asked the Home Office to respond to four questions about its handling of Shamima Begum's case. May I respectfully suggest that they be given the same two-word answer to all four of their questions... no comment.

Under no circumstances should this detestable excuse for a human being be allowed back into this country, but with the spineless Keir Starmer at the helm, who knows?

Brian Banks,
Ormskirk, Lancs

Do-gooders, El-Fattah is what real racism looks like

COMPARE and contrast the political reaction to the alleged verbal racist/antisemitic remarks made by Nigel Farage as a 14-year-old schoolboy and to those made on social media by adult Alaa Abd el-Fattah ("'Extremist' backs claim he is victim of Zionist plot", December 31).

And politicians wonder why they are held in such contempt and mistrusted by the people.

Christopher Humphreys,
Ewloe, Flint

There's no ambiguity in 'dogs and monkeys' jibe

ACCORDING to our "friend" Alaa Abd el-Fattah, his remarks have been "twisted out of their meaning" – perhaps he should be given the opportunity to explain.

How his references to Britons as "dogs and monkeys", calling for Zionists to be killed, for violence against police and hatred of whites can be misconstrued is fanciful.

There is no way his anti-British, antisemitic views should he be "welcomed" into the country and "delight" our useless PM.

David Hardman,
Morley, Derbys

Antisemite right at home in this lawless cesspit

NOW that the precedent has been officially set, any white Brit-hating antisemite can officially enter the country and be welcomed and no doubt live off benefits for the rest of their lives.

And don't forget all the rapists and groomers who live here. We are rapidly becoming a cesspit of humanity. Not to mention the industrial scale of shoplifting.

Bob Edge,
Bolton, Lancs

LETTER OF THE DAY

SECURITY DANGER: Isis bride Shamima Begum

Lawyers work Begum ticket back to UK

SHAMIMA Begum's leftie lawyers have resurrected their bogus claim that she was groomed and trafficked.

These claims were rejected by UK courts so they are trying with the European Court ("Meddling Euro judges take on Shamima case", December 31).

Who funds these lawyers? Note that they appear not remotely concerned about the thousands of white girls who have been groomed and used sex slaves here by gangs of predominantly Pakistani men.

Sadly we know that the European Court of Human Rights is strongly anti-UK and that "Two-Tier" Keir is bound to obey anything they say.

Dr Peter Outen,
Brentwood, Essex

Sorry saga a snapshot of Starmer's broken Britain

ALAA Abd el-Fattah is being welcomed by all the vacant brained luvvies who believe he is the activist they have been waiting for.

What a hypocritical lot they all are. The left deride JK Rowling for stating women are women, but enthuse over someone calling for extermination of Jews, white people and killing our police.

El-Fattah hates this country, calling us all monkeys and dogs, but in the meantime could we bail him out with taxpayer funded benefits.

What a state of affairs Keir Starmer has brought to Britain, he is an absolute disgrace.

Simon James,
Willenhall, Staffs

Tagging migrants idea is a natural Bourne winner

IT WAS encouraging to read the article by Aaron Newbury that Katy Bourne, a Police and Crime Commissioner, has called for migrants to wear electronic tags to keep tabs on them, starting with male migrants ("Put tags on male asylum seekers, says crime tsar", December 30).

Migrants who are genuine would surely not object to this if they are law-abiding and would recognise the reasons for implementing this into the country's laws relating to identification and security.

Julie Foster,
Burnley, Lancs

Torvill and Dean's gongs are both 41 years too late

AS A FOOTBALL fan since girlhood, I was pleased to see England women's team manager Sarina Wiegman has been given an honorary damehood, having won the European Championship twice with the Lionesses ("Sir Idris... the skate and good", December 30).

However, it is a disgrace that Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, Winter Olympic ice-skating champions in 1984 (fully 41 years ago, and before a large number of Daily Express readers were born), were not given a damehood and knighthood at that time, and have only just been granted their titles.

Jo Howarth,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

MBEs for lifeboat heroes after 30 lifesaving years

THIS year's investitures seemed to have been overloaded with showbiz personalities and few of them are honoured for service off the stage.

All lifeboat crew members should automatically receive an MBE after 30 heroic years. A certificate or an RNLI medal is simply not enough to reward what these people have been through to save lives.

Dave Alsop,
Churchdown, Glos

What does Sinfield have to do to get knighthood?

KEVIN Sinfield has worked tirelessly for the MND Association, running marathons in memory of his friend Rob Burrow. Who could forget him carrying Rob over the finish line, true friendship and so moving ("Heroes on my wish list deserve honour", December 30).

A knighthood is so deserving but it seems you only have to kick a ball about like David Beckham, toady up to the King and you get knighted. These honours are given out like confetti to all and sundry and truly deserving people stand little chance.

Shirley Whitaker,
Swindon, Wilts

CREAKY OLD IT SYSTEMS LEAVE DIGITAL ID WIDE OPEN TO FRAUD

THE 4.5 million without smartphones shouldn't be too upset by Labour's plans to make digital ID the universal access to government services ("Pensioners 'shunned' in digital ID bid", December 31) – they'll be safer without it.

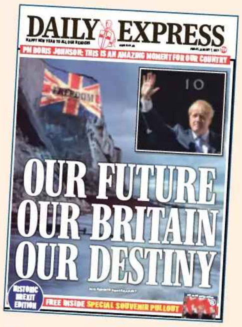
The temptation will guarantee fake and duplicated IDs become readily available, providing not only access to the personal information of the holder, but access to myriad government departments and services – most still running insecure IT systems installed back in the 1980s.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

NO TO DIGITAL ID
#together

TODAY: Thursday January 1, 2026

ON THIS DAY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OUR FUTURE
OUR BRITAIN
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HISTORIC BREXIT EDITION
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Five years ago (2021)

Our front page marked the end of the Brexit transition period, and the UK's first full day of freedom from the EU.

We reported Prime Minister Boris Johnson's jubilant message to the nation as he celebrated "an amazing moment for this country", going on to tell the UK: "We have our freedom in our hands – and it is up to us to make the most of it."

48 years ago (1978)

South African newspaper editor Donald Woods arrived in London after fleeing the country's apartheid regime in fear for his life.

Woods had spent years opposing the government's policies of racial segregation and had been placed under house arrest not long before – banned from working, travelling, writing or speaking publicly for five years.

26 years ago (2000)

Billions of people around the world welcomed the new millennium while, at home, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and PM Tony Blair joined the celebrations at London's Millennium Dome.

Fears that the Y2K bug would cause a global computer meltdown proved totally unfounded.

BIRTHDAYS

Former Arsenal star **Jack Wilshere** is 34. He's now manager at Luton Town.

Merlin star **Colin Morgan** is 40. He hates social media.

Broadcaster **Fiona Phillips** is 65. She is a fan of Chelsea FC.

DJ and hip-hop legend **Grandmaster Flash** is 68. His real name is Joseph Saddler.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

What grows in fields on January 1? New Year's hay.

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- ✓ Dual-sided cooking

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With a 50^2 coverage range, it's ideal for larger rooms. The smart sensor adjusts settings automatically to maintain fresh air, while operating quietly at just 40–65 decibels. Control everything from the MSmartHome app, which also alerts you when the filters (lasting up to 3,000 hours) need replacing.

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RUSSELL GRANT

JIMI MISTRY
Born on this day 1973

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Some experiences will not be what you expected. Someone you meet will put an interesting proposition your way or a relative's announcement will catch you off guard. There seems to be nothing routine about today's events. Your enthusiasm for life is amplified – you're keen to add to your knowledge and are excited about the future.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Some meaningful discussions will relate to your plans for having more fun over the months to come. Matters relating to children can also be discussed and settled harmoniously. A colleague wants to make changes and they will get your full support. A romantic partner is wanting to know your hopes for the long-term future.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

You're looking to the future and hoping to create long-term strategies for managing finances, shared funds and jointly owned items, and all matters related to inheritances, debts, taxes and insurance. For this reason you will be taking this chance to clarify your hopes for the year ahead. Discussions are heavy but necessary.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

A stroll around the block will help clear the cobwebs in your mind. Once you find your balance, you will be eagerly anticipating the new year ahead as home, family and your personal life will bring you a lot of happiness. New family members will be welcomed, and that could be through marriage, adoption or childbirth.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Someone you have been spending a lot of time with has made some impulsive moves. These included some strong words and boisterous action. They need to be encouraged now to relax and make peace. Channel any restlessness you are feeling into making travel plans. Are you single? Make the most of a busy social scene.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

You intend to try even harder now to be more organised and efficient in everything you do in the future. You already have some lists of goals for 2026 and when you are reminded of your past achievements, you will feel happier, more confident and more optimistic than you have been in a long time. Long may it continue.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Plans you are making with your family are adventurous as you consider the future and realise the importance of prioritising your own needs. A strong need for a change of scenery or for something different could lead you to thinking about relocating in 2026. You'll find there is a lot going on in the family this evening.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

It will make lots of sense to you to exercise discretion in all your dealings. A new friend seems to be expecting more and more from you. You may have doubts about someone's honesty but this is not really the right time to express these concerns. It would be sensible to keep any negative thoughts to yourself.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

A relative is in a frivolous mood but you won't encourage any careless spending. The purchases you make today will be on practical items that are designed for longevity. You just aren't in a light-hearted mood. Instead, you are considering the bigger picture. A housemate will make an unusual suggestion. Think about it carefully before you respond.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

You're feeling as determined as you can be to bring about your goals. Even if physically you could be feeling much better, you will be starting the new year feeling a bold determination and a clear sense of purpose. Just remember to balance your work with play and enjoy some fun times, too. It's so important to do this.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

You aren't feeling very energetic this New Year's Day and you definitely want to avoid heavy discussions and intense conversations. You will refuse to commit to plans of a long-term nature until you have had time to think them over. If you can get your own way you will prefer to spend as much time as possible by yourself.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Activities with friends, competitive events and conversations about how other people can help you achieve your goals will go extremely well. A romantic relationship seems uncertain when your partner is still upset about something that happened over Christmas. The least said about this matter, the better.

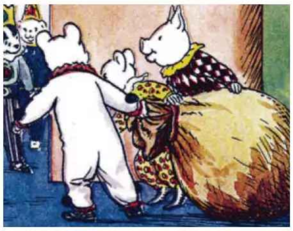
For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge - maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

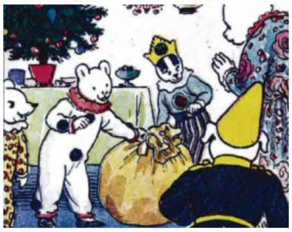
To order a copy of the Rupert Annual 2024 (£10.99) visit www.expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.

RUPERT AND THE COUGH DROP No.42



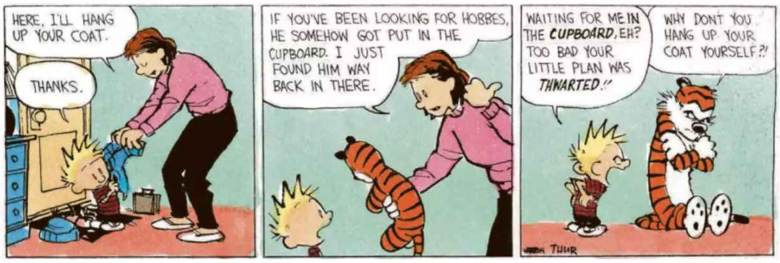
Says Rupert, "It's for our address,
And sent to bring us happiness!"

Cries Rupert: "This is Santa's sack!
Oh, Mummy, quick! Please do unpack."

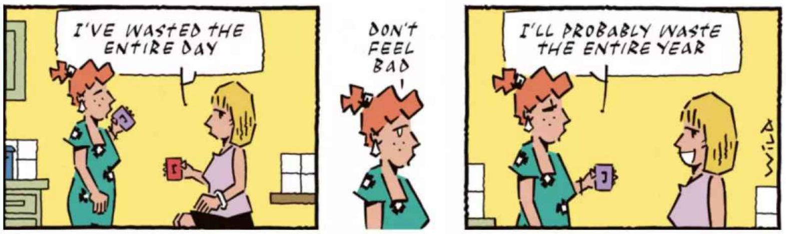


Rupert and friends drag the sack inside. "There's a label on it," says Bill. "See, it says 'For the small folk at Nutwood.' Whoever brought it must have known that we were all here." "I know! It must have been Santa Claus who knocked," cries Rupert. "The sack's too big to go down the chimney that's why he left it outside the door! Look, Mummy, will you open it?"

CALVIN AND HOBBES
BILL WATTERSON


HERE, I'LL HANG UP YOUR COAT.
THANKS.
IF YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HOBBES, HE SOMEHOW GOT PUT IN THE CUPBOARD. I JUST FOUND HIM WAY BACK IN THERE.
WAITING FOR ME IN THE CUPBOARD, EH? TOO BAD YOUR LITTLE PLAN WAS THWARTED!!
WHY DON'T YOU HANG UP YOUR COAT YOURSELF?!

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE
LISA WILD


I'VE WASTED THE ENTIRE DAY
DON'T FEEL BAD
I'LL PROBABLY WASTE THE ENTIRE YEAR
WILD

POWERED BY CITY A.M.

City & Business

AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	9931.4	▼	-9.3
FTSE 250	22470.4	▼	-88.0
FTSE ALL SHARE	5350.4	▼	-6.5
Shares Traded	4066.7 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE

AstraZeneca	13790	+40
BP	432¾	+1¾
BT Group	184	+¼
Marks & Spencer Group	330	+2½
Shell	2740	+8½
Unilever	4859½	+3½
Vodafone Group	99	+¼

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED

BAE Systems	1714
Lloyds Banking Group	98¼

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

Abrdn	205½	-2¼
Aviva	684½	-1½
Barclays	476	-¾
Centrica	169½	-¼
GSK	1824½	-6
HSBC Holdings	1173¾	-1¾
Int Consolidated Airlines	414¼	-¾
National Grid	1141½	-6
NatWest Group	651¾	-1½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1150	-3
Saga	391½	-4
Sainsbury (J)	325	-1½
Tesco	441¾	-1¾
Whitbread	2550	-5

WORLD MARKETS

TOKYO	50339.5	▼	-187.4
HONG KONG	25630.5	▼	-224.1
GERMANY	24490.4	▲	+139.3
FRANCE	8149.5	▼	-18.6

STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.345	▼	-0.001
Yen	211.065	▲	+0.377
Euro	1.146	▶	0.000

DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	156.878	▲	+0.4395
Dollar/Euro	0.852	▲	+0.0008

COMMODITIES

GOLD($)	▼	4320.40
KRUGERRAND(£)	▼	3210.88
SILVER(pence)	▼	5311.24
BRENT CRUDE($)	▼	61.01

OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

POWERED BY Digital Look www.DigitalLook.com

TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.96 dollar
Canada	1.79 dollar
China	8.82 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.08 koruna
Denmark	8.13 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	9.84 dollar
Hungary	414.89 forint
Israel	4.02 shekel
Japan	202.23 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.91 peso
New Zealand	2.26 dollar
Norway	13.07 krone
Poland	4.61 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.81 riyal
South Africa	21.45 rand
Sweden	11.80 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	40.82 baht
Turkey	53.71 lira
United States	1.32 dollar

Footsie beats Wall Street in its best year since 2009

By **Anna Wise**

THE UK'S biggest stock market index enjoyed its best year since recovering from the financial crisis, outperforming global rivals as shares soared despite economic and political uncertainty.

Mining, defence and finance led the charge as the FTSE 100 gained 1,758.36 points – or 21.5% – from the last trading day of 2024 to December 31, 2025.

This was the biggest increase since 2009 when the index of firms listed on the London Stock Exchange climbed by 22.1% in the aftermath of the global financial crash.

Closing 2025 at 9,931.38, the FTSE shot past record-high levels on multiple occasions through the year and teetered close to surpassing 10,000.

A good year for stock exchange

The year's success means it outperformed European and US peers, including France's Cac 40 and New York's S&P 500 – while the gains were more or less on a par with Germany's Dax. The S&P 500 is on track to rise about 17%.

Investors were drawn to the steady gains of FTSE-listed firms despite broader weaknesses in the UK economy and political uncertainty. Turbulence came to a head in early April due to US president Donald Trump's tariffs on imports to the US. However, leading indexes clawed back their losses and returned to growth.

It was a particularly strong year for precious metal producer Fresnillo, whose share price soared by about five-fold over 2025, while gold miner Endeavor Mining jumped by nearly three-fold.

Defence firms Rolls-Royce and Babcock also strengthened considerably during a year where geopolitical tensions continued to rise, with their share prices roughly doubling. Bank stocks also rallied, with Lloyds Banking Group's price also going up two-fold.

Dan Coatsworth, AJ Bell head of markets, said the FTSE "has had precisely the right ingredients desired by investors in a year full of political, trade and market uncertainty".

He added: "This year's success for the blue-chip index is not a flash in the pan.

"The FTSE 100 has delivered positive returns in eight of the past 10 years, averaging 9.1% annually over that period including dividends. This kind of performance reinforces the attraction of investing over the long term."

UK POP STARS ARE CHART-TOPPERS

Singers Dua Lipa and, inset, Olivia Dean

TOP pop acts Dua Lipa, Olivia Dean and Lola Young helped the UK music industry chalk up an 11th year of growth in 2025 and racked up big sales overseas.

Pop singer Sam Fender also delivered the fastest-selling album by a UK act, while rock rallied thanks to sell-out tours by Oasis and Coldplay.

Total recorded music consumption rose 4.9% year on year to the equivalent of 210.3 million albums, with streaming audio passing 200 billion plays, according to industry body BPI.

Streaming now accounts for almost 90% of all consumption, while vinyl sales rose for an 18th straight year.

The BPI's Dr Jo Twist said the results were a "powerful reminder that British music is a global headline act".

ITV pumping £3m into workout star Wicks' app

Fitness coach Joe Wicks

BROADCASTER ITV is investing up to £3million into The Body Coach app created by TV fitness coach Joe Wicks.

The deal is the latest through investment fund ITV AdVentures Invest, and means the app will be advertised across ITV's channels and streaming service ITVX. Wicks, 40, launched the app at the end of 2020 following his rise to fame during the pandemic.

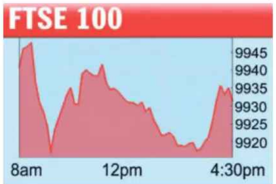
It combines workout and fitness programmes as well as a personalised meal planner and daily progress tools.

The TV advert will launch on ITV today during Joe Wicks' New Year's Day special on ITV1 and ITVX. Guests on the show include singer Olly Murs, chef Gordon Ramsay's daughter Tilly and TV chef Nisha Katona.

Wicks said: "This partnership feels incredibly special. It allows us to bring a positive, supportive message about health and wellbeing into millions of homes when people need it most."

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3263#	+19	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	2127#	-15	2337	1841½
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	355¼	-¼	364¼	113½
Alliance Trust	1282#	+4	1324	1050
Anglo American	3085	+29	3085	2003¾
Antofagasta	3279	-37	3316	1383
Ashtead Group	5086	-56	5538	3659
AstraZeneca	13790	+40	14148	9667
Auto Trader	586½	-¾	908½	583¼
Aviva	684½	-1½	692½	468¾
Babcock International	1243#	+1	1330	485¾
BAE Systems	1714		2060	1145½
Barclays	476	-¾	476¾	241¾
Barratt Development	381	-½	482¼	350
Beazley Group	832	-12	973	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3904	-20	4324	3462
BP	432¾	+1¾	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4214#	+19	4421	2880
British Land	403¾#	+2½	420½	321¼
BT Group	184#	+¼	222¾	138¼
Bunzl	2076#	-12	3452	2072
Burberry Group	1269	-9	1371½	627¾
Centrica	169½	-¼	180	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3842	-12	4034	2708
Compass Group	2364	-6	2843	2319
Convatec Group	243¼	+1	295½	219¼
CRH	9304	-66	9512	6142
Croda International	2695	-61	3385	2465
DCC	4630	-42	5600	4528
Diageo	1603½	+1	2555	1588
Diploma	5295	-60	5650	3624
EasyJet	510½		587¾	427½
Entain	766½	+1	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3363	-46	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1252		1254	962
Flutter Entert.	16130	-25	23630	14670
Fresnillo	3334	-78	3412	621½
Games Workshop	18920#		19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1824½#	-6	1835¼	1264
Glencore	406½		409	230
Haleon	374¾	+1¼	415¼	326½
Halma	3538#	-6	3658	2360
Hikma	1550		2340	1507
Hiscox	1423	-6	1431	1035
HSBC Holdings	1173¾	-1¾	1177	713¼
IMI	2488	-10	2524	1606
Imperial Brands	3119#	-11	3312	2553
Informa	884	-4¼	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10460	+20	10880	7424
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2054#	-18	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4626	-4	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	414¼	-¾	427½	224½
JD Sports	84½	-¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	312¾	-2	317	228¼
Land Securities	622#	-2½	650	499½
Legal & General	262		263	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	98¼		98¾	53
London & Stamford Prop.	189¾#	+¼	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	8952	-10	12095	8138
M&G	286½	-1½	288½	172¾
Marks & Spencer	330#	+2½	411¼	318½
Melrose	588½	+2	680	386
Mondi	908¼	-1½	1326	819
National Grid	1141½#	-6	1182	910¾
NatWest Group	651¾	-1½	654¾	374½
Next	13680#	+30	14580	9028
Pearson	1050	-½	1379	984½
Pershing Square Hold	4846	+52	5090	3244
Persimmon	1358½	+1	1405	1037½
Phoenix Group	737	-½	738½	479½
Prudential	1144½	-8	1155½	595¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6002	-10	6080	4633
RELX	3020	-27	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	447½	+1¾	448½	309½
Rightmove	519½	+2½	823¾	514½
Rio Tinto	5994	-32	6026	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1150	-3	1190	563½
Sage Group	1083	-½	1348	1063
Sainsbury (J)	325	-1½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	407	-4	428¼	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1186	+2½	1187	815¼
SEGRO	720½	+1	732¼	599
Severn Trent	2789#	-18	2852	2338
Shell	2740	+8½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1238½	+4½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2352	-22	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	2871	-10	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	6820	-40	8190	5445
SSE	2179#	-16	2307	1463½
St James's Place	1384½	-6½	1402	791
Standard Chartered	1822	-4	1832½	878¾
Tesco	441¾	-1¾	475½	314½
Unilever	4859½	+3½	6177½	4793½
United Utilities	1194#	-9	1237	937½
Vodafone Group	99#	+¼	100	64
Weir Group	2846	+2	2990	1984
Whitbread	2550	-5	3274	2335



Savers turning to ChatGPT for tips

GROWING numbers of savers are consulting tools like ChatGPT to help them make investment decisions.

A survey of 1,000 adults by analytics firm STRAT7 found 55% have used AI-powered platforms for financial guidance over the past year.

On average, each user has invested around £2,350.

But traditional sources continue to dominate financial decision-making. Banks' websites were used by 81% of respondents, while 76% sought advice from relatives and 75% turned to experts.

Sue van Meeteren, of STRAT7, said: "People are clearly drawn to AI for low-cost, accessible guidance.

"But when decisions feel consequential, they still want reassurance from trusted institutions, lived experience and clear, objective explanations."

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

Aerospace & Defence

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Avon Rubber	1814	-12	2180	1338
Babcock International	1243#	+1	1330	485¾
BAE Systems	1714		2060	1145½
Chemring Group	472½		593	297½
QinetiQ Group	441½	-3	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1150	-3	1190	563½
Senior	194¾	+1	202	115¾

Alternative Energy

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Porvair	846	+14	856	626

Banks

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barclays	476	-¾	476¾	241¾
Bco Santander	881	-12	893	362
Close Brothers	522½	-4	550½	208
HSBC Holdings	1173¾	-1¾	1177	713¼
Investec	551½	-10	596	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	98¼		98¾	53
Metro Bank	120½	-¾	133½	81
NatWest Group	651¾	-1½	654¾	374½
Paragon Group	854½	-10	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1822	-4	1832½	878¾

Beverages

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barr (AG)	624	-7	711	558
Coca-Cola HBC	3842	-12	4034	2708
Diageo	1603½	+1	2555	1588

Chemicals

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Carclo	51	-½	80	21
Croda International	2695	-61	3385	2465
Elementis	166	-1	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2132#	-42	2180	1156
Synthomer	63¼	-1¼	161	46
Treatt	204		487	186½
Victrex	655	-7	1076	589

Construction & Materials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Balfour Beatty	711	-4	721½	390½
Costain Group	159½	+½	168	86
CRH	9304	-66	9512	6142
Dialight	350	+6	350	89
Galliford Try	520	-1	539	321
Gleeson (MJ)	420	-5	538	320
Keller Group	1666	-4	1674	1240
Kier Group	222	-½	231½	115¼
Marshalls	180½	-¾	294½	162
Morgan Sindall	4650	-15	4975	2945
Severfield-Rowen	29	+1	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		132½	110

Electricity

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Drax Group	837	-4	856½	536½
SSE	2179#	-16	2307	1463½
Telecom Plus	1358	-10	2085	1356

Electronic & Electrical Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Acal	600#	-4	738	486
Halma	3538#	-6	3658	2360
Oxford Instruments	2050#	-25	2165	1500
Renishaw	3510	-5	3725	2145
TT Electronics	114½	+½	154	73
XP Power	900		1314	621

Equity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aberdeen Asian Sml	364	-4	380	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1574	-4	1588	1212
Acorn Income	367½			
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1282#	+4	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	272		273½	212½
AVI Global Tst	257½#	+½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	898	+2	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	131½	+½	136½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst.	133¼		135	101
Baronsmead VCT.2.	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	399	-1	414	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1200	-20	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	804	-21	855	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼#		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	26½	-½	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1430	-4	1470	1140
Caledonia Inv.	381#	+2	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	355		359	165¾
City Of London	528	-1	532	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	305	+1	309	262
Edin Wwide Inv	213	-2	219	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	822		839	680
Edin.US Tracker	368#	+2½	372¾	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36¾
F&C Cap&Inc.	345#	-1	346	287
F&C Inv Tst	1252		1254	962
F&C Smaller Cos	177#	+½	177½	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1390	-10	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	596	+4	628	454
Fidelity European	416½	-1	431	338½
Fidelity Special	418#		418¾	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	822	-3	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1066	+12	1074	632
Graphite Ent	1488	-12	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	267	+1	272	190
Hansa Tst Plc	273	+1	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	239½	-1	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	187½#	-2½	191	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2405	-5	2560	1738
HGCapital Tst.	507	-1	539	448
HSBC Infrastructure	116½#	-½	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	396½		416½	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	964#	+4	996	480
International Public	125¼	+¼	127¾	107¾
Invesco Asia	424#	-1	436	300
Invesco Perp UK	370	+1	390	313½
JPM American	1122		1186	869
JPM Asian	441	-2	459½	331½
JPM Claverhouse	866	-4	870	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	137½		139	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	597#	-2	600	444½
JPM Global Emerging	171#	+1½	171	118½
JPM Indian	1018	-2	1106	904
JPM Japanese	690#	+1	747	493
JPM Overseas IT	574		610	480
JPM Smaller Co	321#	-½	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	400	+1	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	899	-6	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	189	+2	220	184
Law Debenture	1054#	-6	1070	788
Lowland Invest Co	159#	-½	160½	114½
Majedie Inv.	268		280	230
Manchester&Lon.	799		944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	354½	+½	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT	33½#		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	257½#	-1	259	202½
Merchants Tst.	596	-3	600	474
Mid Wynd Int.	776	+6	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1500		1548	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	166½#	+½	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	101½	-¼	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	913	-7	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	335		336	239
New India	784	+10	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	124		126¼	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½	+½	7	5½
Pacific Assets	360	-1	378	302
Pacific Horizon	780	+6	792	507
Pantheon Int.	378	+½	380½	266
Pershing Square Hold	4846	+52	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	464	+½	481	255½
RCM Technology Trust	527	-1	548	307
RIT Capital Partners	2270	-5	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	294	+2	304	264
Schroder Asia	658#	+2	678	461½
Schroder Inc.	348#		354	255
Schroder Japan	313	-1	314¾	209
Schroder UK	204	-1	209	158½
Schroder UK M&S	708		716	520
Scottish American	516	+5	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1186	+2½	1187	815¼
Shires Inc.	316½	+4½	319	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	142#	+2½	161	124
Standard Life Equity	404#	+4	404	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	504	-1	531	426
Temple Bar.	378½	-1½	380½	258
Templeton Emrg.	235#	+½	240½	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	108½		109	84
Throgmorton Tst.	624		625¾	469
TR Euro.Growth	216½	+½	221	163
TR Prop. IT	317#	-1½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	307½	+1½	322	214
Wwide Healthcare	375½#	-1½	397	265½

Financial Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3263#	+19	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	374#	-1	376½	301
Abrdn	205½	-2¼	210¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	176½		193	125
Guinness Peat Group	84½		96	68¼
IG Group	1315	+1	1323	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2054#	-18	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	234		235	121½
IP Group	58½		65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	158½		159¾	68
Liontrust Asset Man	265½#	+½	476	248
London Stock Ex.	8952	-10	12095	8138
M&G	286½	-1½	288½	172¾
Man Group	228¾	-½	229½	154¾
Provident Financial	119½	+½	128½	44½
Rathbone Brothers	1930	-10	1944	1406
S & U	2080	+10	2180	1330
Schroders	407	-4	428¼	289¼
St James's Place	1384½	-6½	1402	791
Tullett Prebon	259½		311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		17	7½

Fixed Line Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Airtel Africa	355¼	-¼	364¼	113½
BT Group	184#	+¼	222¾	138¼

Food & Drug Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Greggs	1680	-6	2832	1418
Marks & Spencer	330#	+2½	411¼	318½
Ocado	236	-4½	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	325	-1½	355¾	228¾
Tesco	441¾	-1¾	475½	314½

Food Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
A.B. Foods	2127#	-15	2337	1841½
Anglo-Eastern	1370	+15	1425	602
Carr's Milling	133½		157	101½
Cranswick	4955#	-35	5490	4625
Glanbia	1317½	+43½	1378½	794
Greencore Group	254	+1½	278½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6456	-226¾	8811¾	6438¾
Premier Foods	172½	-¼	214½	170¾
REA Holdings	123½		124½	61½
Tate & Lyle	374¾#	-1½	661	358

Gas, Water & Multiutilities

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Centrica	169½	-¼	180	132¼
National Grid	1141½#	-6	1182	910¾
Pennon Group	527½	-5	552	387½
Severn Trent	2789#	-18	2852	2338
United Utilities	1194#	-9	1237	937½

General Industrials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bunzl	2076#	-12	3452	2072
Goodwin	21300		23300	6180
Melrose	588½	+2	680	386
Mondi	908¼	-1½	1326	819
Smiths Group	2352	-22	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	2871	-10	4495	2558

General Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
ASOS	283½	+7	445¼	218½
Auto Trader	586½	-¾	908½	583¼
B&M Europ Value Ret	168¾	-1	367	155¼
Caffyns	415#		500	415
Dixons Carphone	126#	-3	146	82
Dunelm	1130	-7	1232	858½
Frasers Group	678	+4	770	546
Halfords Group	140¾#	-½	174½	116¼
Headlam Group	47	+¼	142½	46
Howden Joinery	832½	-7	914½	679½
Inchcape	769	-5½	808	638
JD Sports	84½	-¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	312¾	-2	317	228¼
Next	13680#	+30	14580	9028
Pets At Home	198#	-¾	273¼	192¾
RM Group	114		118	82
Topps Tiles	40#	-1	50	29
WH Smith	639	-4½	1307	613½

Health Care Equipment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Convatec Group	243¼	+1	295½	219¼
Flying Brands	+¾		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1238½	+4½	1435	937¾

Household Goods & Home Construction

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barratt Development	381	-½	482¼	350
Bellway	2744#	+16	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3904	-20	4324	3462
Bovis Homes	641½	+3½	698	510¾
Mcbride	146½	+2½	159	99¼
Persimmon	1358½	+1	1405	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6002	-10	6080	4633
Taylor Wimpey	107½	+¾	123¼	93

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Industrial Engineering

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bodycote	698	-6	714	460½
Hill & Smith	2140#	-20	2265	1530
IMI	2488	-10	2524	1606
Morgan Crucible	218	-1½	274	177½
Northgate	383½#	+1½	395	273½
Rotork	325½	-2½	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	6820	-40	8190	5445
Vesuvius	396¾	-1¾	423	313¾
Weir Group	2846	+2	2990	1984
Xaar	106	+4	145	59

Industrial Metals & Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Castings	272#	-4	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	74	-2¼	110¾	44¼

Industrial Transportation

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Braemar Shipping Serv	215#	-1	278	201
Clarkson	3815	-10	4505	2995
FirstGroup	190½	-1¼	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	375		403	285

Leisure Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	18920#		19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	151	-½	230	149¾

Life Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aviva	684½	-1½	692½	468¾
Chesnara	301	+2	302	212¾
Legal & General	262		263	215¼
Phoenix Group	737	-½	738½	479½
Prudential	1144½	-8	1155½	595¼

Media

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
4imprint Group	3845	-20	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	482	-4	674	468
Future	526½	+½	1029	521½
Informa	884	-4¼	993½	640¼
ITV	82¼	-¼	87¾	66¼
Pearson	1050	-½	1379	984½
Reach	55	+1¼	88¼	53
STV Group	105½	-½	220½	103
Wilmington Group	296	+1	389	289½
WPP Group	337½	-3¼	830½	269

Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Anglo American	3085	+29	3085	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	114¾	-¼	115	50
Antofagasta	3279	-37	3316	1383
BHP Billiton	2259	-17	2297	1609½
Endeavour Mining	3872	-30	3986	1425
Fresnillo	3334	-78	3412	621½
Gem Diamonds	3		12	2¾
Glencore	406½		409	230
Hochschild Mining	513½	-16½	530	168
Kenmare Res.	247	-10½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	17	-¼	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	5994	-32	6026	4117

Mobile Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Vodafone Group	99#	+¼	100	64

Nonequity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1232½	-17½	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2040	-2½	2420	1670

Nonlife Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	832	-12	973	769
Hiscox	1423	-6	1431	1035
Lancashire	641	-1	694	523

Oil & Gas Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BP	432¾	+1¾	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	195¼	+5¼	331½	183
Enquest	10½		16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	177	+¾	224½	145½
Harbour Energy	196½	-1½	294	151¼
Shell	2740	+8½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21#	+1¼	27½	18
Tullow Oil	6	-¼	24½	4

Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Hunting	370½	+4	396	246½
John Wood Group	23¾	+¼	72½	17¼

Personal Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Burberry Group	1269	-9	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	74	+½	88¼	66
Unilever	4859½	+3½	6177½	4793½

Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
AstraZeneca	13790	+40	14148	9667
Genus	2595	-20	2715	1424
GlaxoSmithKline	1824½#	-6	1835¼	1264
Haleon	374¾	+1¼	415¼	326½
Hikma	1550		2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	617	-3	682	232½

Real Estate Investment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Boot (Henry)	225	-1	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700		2700	2450
CLS Holdings	60¼	+¼	80½	53½
Foxtons	59½	+¾	69	52¼
Harworth Group	167	-½	189½	158½
Mountview Est.	9025	+175	10200	8600
Panther Secs.	290		320	280
Rightmove	519½	+2½	823¾	514½
Savills	996	-6	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	870		870	680

Real Estate Investment Trusts

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Big Yellow Group	1046	-4	1180	848
British Land	403¾#	+2½	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	145	+½	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1739	+9	2096	1608
Grainger	182¼		228	177½
Great Portland Est.	318½#	+2	363	262
Hammerson	330	+2½	330	220½
Helical Bar	188½#	+¾	240	171¾
Land Securities	622#	-2½	650	499½
London & Stamford Prop	189¾#	+¼	204½	170½
Primary Health	98	-¼	103½	86¼
SEGRO	720½	+1	732¼	599
Town Centre	126#	-1	149	117
Unite Group	559½	-2	879½	510
Value & Income	203½#	+2	215	173
Workspace Group	399		495	362

Software & Computer Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Computacenter	2930	-44	3064	2024
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	294	+1	344	255
Moneysupermarket	183¾	-1¾	221½	180½
Pendragon	358	+3½	558	296
RELX	3020	-27	4135	2972
Sage Group	1083	-½	1348	1063
Triad Group	260		400	240

Support Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ashtead Group	5086	-56	5538	3659
Capita Group	405½	+2	407½	175
DCC	4630	-42	5600	4528
Diploma	5295	-60	5650	3624
Essentra	96½		133	89¾
Experian Group	3363	-46	4088	3091
Ferguson	16610	-110	19470	11670
Hays	56¼	+¼	88¼	52
Intertek Group	4626	-4	5385	4064
Johnson Service	135	+¼	159½	122¾
London Security	2750		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	72		120½	62¾
Mears Group	358	-1	417½	311½
Michael Page	235½	-¾	343½	219½
Mitie Group	166½	-2¼	169¼	106½
Norish	18½		18¾	14
Paypoint	473½	-3½	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	447½	+1¾	448½	309½
Robert Walters	136	-5	333	116
RS Group	624#	-4½	684	487¼
Serco Group	279¼	-¼	283	147
SIG	10	+¼	18	8½
Smiths News	75¾	+¼	76	47½
Speedy Hire	25#		32¼	18
SThree	191	+2¼	296	137½
Travis Perkins	635½	-5½	729	494
Trifast	68½	-2	87½	59
Vitec Group	11	-1½	149	11

Technology Hardware & Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BATM Advanced	16¼	-¼	19¾	13

Tobacco

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
British Amer.Tob	4214#	+19	4421	2880
Imperial Brands	3119#	-11	3312	2553

Travel & Leisure

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
888 Holdings	22¼	+¼	74	21
Carnival	2268	-23	2358	1134
Celtic	199	+6	200	142½
Compass Group	2364	-6	2843	2319
Domino's Pizza	173½	+½	315	167¼
EasyJet	510½		587¾	427½
Entain	766½	+1	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	16130	-25	23630	14670
Fuller Smith & Turner	720#	-4	728	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10460	+20	10880	7424
Intl Consolidated Airlines	414¼	-¾	427½	224½
Irish Continental Uts	540	-20	560	380
Marston's	59	+¾	62¼	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	261½	-3	291½	208½
National Express	23	-¼	80½	21
Rank Group	99¼	-¾	160½	77¾
Saga	391½	-4	399	111½
Wetherspoon (JD)	737½	+4½	804	541
Whitbread	2550	-5	3274	2335

AIM

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Alumasc Group	255	+7½	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	880	-10	1100	837½
Boohoo	23¼	+¾	33¾	10½
Camellia	5005		6050	4090
Churchill China	340		725	335
CML Microsystems	300		335	210
Colefax Group	950		970	750
CPP Group	70½	-2	162	68½
Cropper (James)	325		345	132½
Falkland Islands	240		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	819	+5	998	611½
Filtronic	176	+5½	178	74¾
James Halstead	137	-1½	181½	133
Mothercare	2½		4¼	2¼
Mpac Group	305		586	270
Naked Wine	72	-1	93½	43
Nichols	954	-2	1465	930
Northamber	32½		34	26
Portmeirion	94		189	94
Regal Petroleum	17½		26½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	70¼	-1	87¾	25
Ten Alps	47½		73	47½
Titon Holdings	92½		95	69
Volex	418#	+4	428½	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A	740	-9	992	714

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PUNTERS GET READY TO HAIL A KAB

DU BEAUTY: Kabral Du Mathan runs in the 2.35

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

KABRAL DU MATHAN (2.35) can showcase his Stayers' Hurdle credentials at Cheltenham today.

The six-year-old took apart a competitive field to land a Haydock handicap hurdle off top weight by 12 lengths in November on his first start for Dan Skelton since his high-profile switch from the yard of Paul Nicholls.

Now he goes on trial for major Spring targets as he steps up in class for the 2m4f Grade 2 Relkeel Hurdle. Kabral Du Mathan's last-time-out run has been boosted by the runner-up scoring at Newbury and he can confirm his status as an up-and-coming talent.

Nicholls can get on the New Year's Day scoresheet with **TWINJETS** (2.00) in the premier handicap chase.

The gelding can complete a hat-trick after victories at Fontwell and Newbury. Earlier **JASMIN DE GRUGY** (1.25), a well-beaten favourite on his comeback at Newcastle, can atone in the 3m1f handicap chase, while **SPIKE JONES** (3.10) is fancied to strike for local trainer Sam Drinkwater in the 3m handicap hurdle.

At Musselburgh. **SMOKERINTHEDARK** (1.40) should be suited by a return to the course and distance where he opened his hurdling account in December 2024. And Nicholls' decision to send a team up to Scotland can be rewarded by **INSURRECTION** (2.15) taking the feature 2m4f handicap chase.

The selection won his first race over fences at the track last February.

At Windsor, **HARTINGTON** (2.50) is the horse to beat back over his favourite 2m4f trip in the handicap hurdle. He was beaten a neck on his first try at 3m in November.

CHELTENHAM RACINGTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

12.15 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£10,892 (Class 2)2m 4f 56yds (8 declared)

1 253/2L-5 **CAN'T RESIST IT (20)** 7 11 7.**Fern O'Brien** **112**
Runs: 10 Places: 3 £6,747
Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: The Mustard

2 3 **HANDIN MANYPOCKETS (60)** 5 11 7**R Dingle** –
Runs: 1 Places: 1
Trainer: S Hosie Owner: Mr C R Trembath

3 21-23 **JUST GOLDEN (33)** 6 11 7............**H Skelton★123**
Runs: 4 Wins: 1(S) Places: 3 £7,904
Trainer: D SkeltonOwner: The Late John Hales And Miss L Hales

4 52/612-4 **KIWI RUSH (33)** 6 11 7...................**J J Burke** **115**
Runs: 6 Wins: 1(S) Places: 2 £10,967
Trainer: Harry Derham Owner: Smash Gc Racing

5 F/21- **MINELLA MISSION (313)** 7 11 7. **C Deutsch** –
Runs: 3 Wins: 1(S)
Trainer: D J Jeffreys Owner: Mr Mark E Smith

6 P/1- **NEON DREAM (305)** 6 11 7..........**T Bellamy** –
Runs: 2 Wins: 1
Trainer: A King Owner: Syders & Burkes

7 23-2 ● **STEP AHEAD (21)** 6 11 7 ....**C Gethings** **118**
Runs: 3 Places: 3 £6,940
Trainer: K Bailey & M Nicholls Owner: Mr P J Andrews

8 12-L7 **WALK TALL (13)** 6 11 7...................**H Cobden** **112**
Runs: 4 Wins: 1 Places: 1 £1,004
Trainer: J Tizzard Owner: Kevan Leggett, Susan & John Waterworth

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 7.

SP FORECAST: 2 Step Ahead, 9-4 Just Golden, 3 Kiwi Rush, 4 Neon Dream, 25 Minella Mission, 50 Walk Tall, Can't Resist It, 100 Handin Manypockets.

2025: Diva Luna 6-11-0, Kielan Woods 5-4 Fav (B Pauling), 9 ran.

12.50 NOVICES' CHASE (GBB RACE)
£13,615 (2) 2m 4f 127yds (5)

1 23705-1 **EAGLE FANG (42)** 6 11 9................**P Byrnes** **135**
Runs: 13 Wins: 3(S) Places: 4 £41,899
Trainer: W Durkan (IRE) Owner: Mr William Durkan

2 3331-L1 **KNIGHT OF ALLEN (15)** 6 11 9..**C Gethings** **123**
Runs: 9 Wins: 3(GS,G) Places: 3 £45,532
Trainer: Mrs J Williams Owner: Holt, Macnabb, Robinson & Jeffrey

3 4212-31 **REGENT'S STROLL (16)** 7 11 9.....**H Cobden★150**
Runs: 9 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 2 £131,393
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Ferguson, Mason, Hales, Hogarth & Vogt

4 3/1216-2 ● **CALIFET EN VOL (20)** 7 11 4**N De Boinville** **144**
Runs: 7 Wins: 2(GS,G) Places: 3 £45,529
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: McNeill Family & Stone Family

5 1227-L3 **MIAMI MAGIC (38)** 7 11 4.........**C Hammond** **137**
Runs: 11 Wins: 3(GS,G) Places: 3 £53,156
Trainer: S Edmunds Owner: Mr D Hague

HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 4-5 Regent's Stroll, 3 Califet En Vol, 9-2 Eagle Fang, 14 Miami Magic, 16 Knight Of Allen.

2025: No corresponding race.

1.25 BETFAIR HANDICAP CHASE
£27,230 (2) 3m 1f 56yds (8) ITV1

1 44P33-1 **DOES HE KNOW (29) (C)** 11 12 0 ....**T Bellamy** **150**
Runs: 29 Wins: 10(S,F,GS,G) Places: 3 £244,023
Trainer: K Bailey & M Nicholls Owner: Yes He Does Syndicate

2 PLLP-75 **SHANNON ROYALE (40)** 8 11 2.....**S Bowen** **141**
Runs: 19 Wins: 4(S) Places: 6 £40,868
Trainer: Ian Donoghue (IRE) Owner: Robcour

3 137-524 **HERAKLES WESTWOOD (20)** 9 11 2**J Bowen** **150**
Runs: 20 Wins: 5(S,GS) Places: 3 £58,980
Trainer: W Greatrex Owner: All Above Board Racing

4 121P-L6 **KATATE DORI (33)** 8 11 2..........**D Johnston★152**
Runs: 17 Wins: 4(S,GS) Places: 6 £116,561
Trainer: S Thomas Owner: Walters Plant Hire Ltd

5 3740-3L **EXCELLO (26)** 7 10 13........... **N De Boinville** **151**
Runs: 17 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 6 £127,467
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mrs Angela Yeoman

6 LF/PP-6P **INCH HOUSE (33)** 9 10 10.............**H Cobden** **149**
Runs: 14 Wins: 4(GS) Places: 2 £55,333
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Mr Michael Geoghegan

7 1113-24 ● **JASMIN DE GRUGY (33)** 7 10 7**R Dingle** **149**
Runs: 15 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 2 £39,833
Trainer: A Honeyball Owner: Mr John P McManus

8 1L11-L2 **NEW ORDER (27)** 8 10 6.......................**D Bass** **148**
Runs: 15 Wins: 4(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £34,389
Trainer: C Longsdon Owner: Mf Partnership

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5
HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Katate Dori, 7-2 Herakles Westwood, 5 Jasmin De Grugy, 7 Does He Know, 8 Inch House, Excello, 10 New Order, 12 Shannon Royale.

2025: Chantry House 11-11-13, Nico De Boinville 8-1 (N Henderson), 5 ran.

GUIDE: There weren't many more improved chasers in training than **KATATE DORI** around this time last year and his progression has taken him into races such as the Coral Gold Cup. He could only manage sixth in the Newbury (3m2f, gd-sft) showpiece, but this isn't nearly as competitive and he can capitalise. **Herakles Westwood** has put in a couple of good efforts here (3m1f, hvy & 3m2f, gd-sft) and is a player on that form. **Jasmin De Grugy** had to settle for fourth as favourite in Newcastle's Rehearsal Chase (2m7f, gd-sft), but should step forward. **Does He Know** will find this tougher than the veterans' event he dominated at Haydock (3m2f, gd-sft).

THE SCOUT

12.15 Step Ahead	2.35 Kabral Du Mathan
12.50 Califet En Vol	3.10 Spike Jones
1.25 Jasmin De Grugy	3.40 Solly's Gold
2.00 Twinjets	

2.00 BETFAIR HANDICAP CHASE
£56,950 (1) 2m 4f 127yds (9) ITV1

1 141L/1P- **JUNGLE BOOGIE (294) (D)** 12 12 0 .. **C Deutsch** **157**
Runs: 8 Wins: 5(S,GS) £74,961
Trainer: V Williams Owner: Mr Malcolm C Denmark

2 13L-L33 **MATATA (25) (C)** 8 11 12**S Twiston-Davies** **158**
Runs: 21 Wins: 6(S,GS,G) Places: 7 £210,977
Trainer: N & W Twiston-Davies Owner: Mr Simon Munir & Mr Isaac Souede

3 4/52P-11 ● **TWINJETS (34)** 9 11 6...............**H Cobden** **156**
Runs: 18 Wins: 9(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £88,404
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Mr C W Rodgers

4 117-419 **RISKINTHEGROUND (33) (C&D)** 9 11 3**H Skelton** **153**
Runs: 31 Wins: 8(S,GS,G) Places: 3 £148,472
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: 3 Sons

5 807-287 **IL RIDOTO (19) (C&D)** 9 10 11**F Keighley(7)** **158**
Runs: 32 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 5 £284,908
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Giles, Hogarth, Mason, McGoff & Fergus

6 52LP-FL **GRANDEUR D'AME (33)** 10 10 6 **T Bellamy** **123**
Runs: 25 Wins: 6(S,GS,G) Places: 5 £89,024
Trainer: A King Owner: Syders & Burkes

7 4-77L00 **MOON D'ORANGE (33) (C&D)** 8 10 5... **C Pritchard(3)** **★160**
Runs: 22 Wins: 3(S,GS,G) Places: 4 £95,027
Trainer: J McConnell (IRE) Owner: Ian Stuart Griffiths and Gary Evans

8 PPL341 **GLENGOULY (19) (C&D,F)** 10 10 3**S Bowen** **159**
Runs: 27 Wins: 5(S,GS) Places: 4 £131,793
Trainer: Faye Bramley Owner: The Cheeky Pups

9 54P4-11 **JUST OVER LAND (26)** 7 10 2**B Macey(7)** **151**
Runs: 17 Wins: 3(S,GS) Places: 4 £27,061
Trainer: S ThomasOwner: Walters Plant Hire & Spiers & Hartwell

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 8, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7, 8.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Glengouly, 4 Twinjets, 6 Just Over Land, Il Ridoto, 7 Riskintheground, 15-2 Jungle Boogie, 10 Grandeur D'ame, 12 Matata, 14 Moon D'orange.

2025: Springwell Bay 8-11-3, Jonjo O'Neill Jr 11-4 JtFav (J & A O'Neill), 8 ran.

GUIDE: Glengouly had **Il Ridoto** well in arrears when benefiting from an inspired Sean Bowen ride to lift the December Gold Cup over C&D (gd-sft). He may have been sent off at 33/1 but there was certainly no fluke about the result, although it won't surprise if he is pestered for the lead this time because **Twinjets** made all to score at Fontwell (2m3f, gd-sft) and Newbury (2m4f, gd-sft). **Matata** is another who can force the issue, which may set things up nicely for **RISKINTHEGROUND**, who failed to stay in the Coral Gold Cup (3m2f, gd-sft) but beat Blueking d'Oroux at Newton Abbot (2m5f, gd-sft) and also landed the Silver Trophy over track and trip (gd) last April.

2.35 RELKEEL HURDLE (GRADE 2)
£39,865 (1) 2m 4f 56yds (6) ITV1

1 21L-037 **GOWEL ROAD (20) (C)** 10 11 6**S Twiston-Davies** **153**
Runs: 26 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 8 £169,727
Trainer: N & W Twiston-Davies Owner: Options O Syndicate

2 1174-LL **LUCKY PLACE (15) (C&D,F)** 7 11 6 ...**N De Boinville** **159**
Runs: 12 Wins: 3(S,GS,G) Places: 5 £141,792
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mrs G Van Geest & Mr M George

3 1P/11U-7 **JINGKO BLUE (40) (D)** 7 11 0.........**J Bowen** **150**
Runs: 9 Wins: 5(S,GS) Places: 1 £53,734
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Countrywide Park Homes Ltd

4 1/1222-1 ● **KABRAL DU MATHAN (40)** 6 11 0**H Skelton★167**
Runs: 7 Wins: 4(S,GS) Places: 3 £140,584
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Neil Smith & Alfie Smith

5 4820-2L **KAMSINAS (18) (D)** 9 11 0............ **J J Burke** **151**
Runs: 18 Wins: 6(GS,G) Places: 3 £88,500
Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: Noel Fehily Racing Syndicates Kamsinas

6 1454-2L **THE REAL WHACKER (61) (T)** 10 11 0**S Bowen** **160**
Runs: 19 Wins: 5(S,G) Places: 2 £309,588
Trainer: P Neville Owner: Neville, Mann, Duffus & Dennis-price

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 6.

SP FORECAST: 8-15 Kabral Du Mathan, 9-2 Lucky Place, 10 Jingko Blue, 12 The Real Whacker, Gowel Road, 20 Kamsinas.

2025: Lucky Place 6-11-6, Nico De Boinville 3-1 (N Henderson), 6 ran.

GUIDE: Kabral Du Mathan bolted up on his debut for Dan Skelton at Haydock (2m3f, gd-sft) in November and has to be respected as a result. That said, this is much more demanding and a chance can be taken with **LUCKY PLACE**. Nicky Henderson's gelding won this race 12 months ago (sft) and, while he has been underwhelming in two chase starts this season, reverting to timber could spark some improvement. The rest do not inspire a lot of confidence, but **Jingko Blue** is the pick of them.

3.10 HANDICAP HURDLE (GBB RACE)
£18,210 (2) 2m 7f 213yds (7) ITV1

1 12P2-1P **HARBOUR LAKE (40) (D)** 10 12 0**T Bellamy** **141**
Runs: 21 Wins: 6(S,GS,G) Places: 5 £108,615
Trainer: A King Owner: Hemmings Racing

2 1137-10 **MA SHANTOU (40) (C&D,F)** 7 11 8**H Cobden** **140**
Runs: 10 Wins: 4(S,GS,G) Places: 2 £41,614
Trainer: E Lavelle Owner: Mighty Acorn Stables

3 233-3UF **DOUBLE POWERFUL (38) (C)** 7 11 6**S Bowen** **141**
Runs: 18 Wins: 6(S,G) Places: 5 £50,332
Trainer: N Mulholland Owner: Equi ex Incertis Partners

4 1142-14 **ACE OF SPADES (40) (C)** 7 11 0 **H Skelton** **145**
Runs: 11 Wins: 4(GS,G) Places: 4 £49,087
Trainer: D Skelton Owner: Noel Fehily Racing Syndicate - Ace

5 5/136-23 ● **SPIKE JONES (20)** 9 10 2...**B Macey(7)** **144**
Runs: 21 Wins: 5(S,GS,G) Places: 6 £49,181
Trainer: S Drinkwater Owner: Drinkwater Family & Cheltenham Boys

6 P143-51 **LOVE OF NEYMORE (26) (D)** 8 10 2..**Charlie Price** **★146**
Runs: 12 Wins: 3(GS) Places: 2 £17,412
Trainer: R L Llewellyn Owner: Mr Richard Edward Pullen

7 2FLU14 **PIKE ROAD (20)** 7 10 2 ....**F Keighley(7)** **143**
Runs: 14 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 3 £20,174
Trainer: M Keighley Owner: Mr Roger Harrison

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Ace Of Spades, 3 Double Powerful, 7-2 Ma Shantou, 8 Spike Jones, Pike Road, 12 Harbour Lake, 14 Love Of Neymore.

2025: Strackan 6-10-2, Sam Twiston-Davies 7-2 (H Daly), 9 ran.

GUIDE: Ace Of Spades sets the standard based on his fourth in a valuable handicap at Haydock (3m, gd-sft) in November, but preference is for **MA SHANTOU**. Emma Lavelle's gelding was well held in that contest but that race favoured prominent runners and he was not able to make an impact from the back. The seven-year-old is best judged on his previous win at this venue (3m, gd) in October and he can be given another chance. **Spike Jones** edges out **Double Powerful** to be best of the rest.

3.40 'JUNIOR' NH FLAT RACE 4YO
£14,860 (1) 2m 179yds (16)

1 1 **BAILLY'S COMET (42)** 11 0 ....**R Dingle** **100**
Runs: 1 Wins: 1(G) £2,723
Trainer: A Honeyball Owner: Buckingham, Collins, Kingston & Lewis

2 3 **BERKSHIRE WOODY (54)** 11 0.**D Johnston** **108**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £878
Trainer: R CurtisOwner: Berkshire Parts & Panels Ltd No1 Fancl

3 2 **CHAMP KABAI (42)** 11 0...............**B Godfrey** **100**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £1,255
Trainer: A Honeyball Owner: Mr Willem Van Der Horst

4 21 **CRACK OPS (56)** 11 0.........................**T Wynne** **105**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1(G) Places: 1 £3,454
Trainer: O Greenall & J Guerriero Owner: Coxondanielsmannrosenbergstreet

5 7 **CREST OF ARMS (42)** 11 0........... **H Skelton** **88**
Runs: 1
Trainer: A Honeyball Owner: Crest Racing Xv

6 2 **DON'T REIN ME IN (72)** 11 0......... **B Carver** **101**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £1,004
Trainer: C Honour Owner: The Kristliamjackell Syndicate

7 2 **FAITHFUL GUARDIAN (56)** 11 0 **T Bellamy** **104**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £1,129
Trainer: A King Owner: Teme Valley

8 **GARRINCHA** 11 0.............................**R T Dunne** –
Trainer: J & A O'Neill Owner: Martyn & Elaine Booth & Sarah Fern

9 **IVOR BEAR** 11 0................**S Twiston-Davies** –
Trainer: N & W Twiston-Davies Owner: Lord Vestey & D Spencer-churchill

10 **MAESTROW** 11 0...........................**C Pritchard** –
Trainer: B Pauling Owner: Leadenhall Grapes Racing

11 **MARIOLE (F263) (F)** 11 0 ... **N De Boinville** –
Trainer: N Henderson Owner: Mr Roger Wj Davis

12 2 **MOLLY'S LAD (54)** 11 0 ....**J J Burke** **109**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £1,756
Trainer: F O'Brien Owner: The Ravenstone Partnership

13 19 **PUREIS KING (54) (D)** 11 0 ....**J Bowen** **102**
Runs: 2 Wins: 1(G) £2,178
Trainer: Faye Bramley Owner: Studart James Bloodstock

14 3 **ROXIMAN (42)** 11 0 ....**H Cobden** **99**
Runs: 1 Places: 1 £627
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: John White & Anne Underhill

15 1 ● **SOLLY'S GOLD (26) (F)** 11 0....**S Bowen★110**
Runs: 1 Wins: 1(S) £2,451
Trainer: James Owen Owner: Value Racing - Solly's Gold

16 **MARVELOUS DRAGONES (F61)** 10 7**J Quinlan** –
Trainer: Miss A Murphy Owner: Mr Jimmy Wenman

TONGUE STRAP: No. 16.

SP FORECAST: 4 Solly's Gold, 5 Roximan, Molly's Lad, 6 Mariole, 8 Bailly's Comet, 14 Berkshire Woody, 16 Pureis King, Champ Kabai, Crack Ops, Faithful Guardian, 20 Others.

2025: Precious Metal 11-0, Lilly Pinchin 16-1 (Miss H Knight), 16 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Harry Skelton 16% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** D Skelton 14% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 3.10 Harbour Lake (wind surgery), 3.40 Marvelous Dragones (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.15 Just Golden. 12.50 Califet En Vol. 1.25 Herakles Westwood(hcp ch), Jasmin De Grugy(hcp ch). 2.00 Matata(hcp ch). 2.35 Lucky Place. 3.10 Double Powerful, Ma Shantou(hcp hdl). 3.40 Pureis King, Roximan. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Eagle Fang** (12.50), **Shannon Royale** (1.25), **Moon D'orange** (2.00) Ireland; **The Real Whacker** (2.35) 203 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.15 **Handin Manypockets** from Mary Ellen Doyle in Ireland to S Hosie, **Minella Mission** from J Nallen in Ireland to D J Jeffreys, **Neon Dream** from S Curling in Ireland to A King. 2.00 **Jungle Boogie** from H De Bromhead in Ireland to V Williams. 3.40 **Mariole** from M Pitart to N Henderson.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Cotswolds: **PIONEER PETE** (12.20 Catterick)
Wales: **POTTERSVILLE** (12.24 Windsor)
North: **THE KALOOKI KID** (2.15 Musselburgh)
Midlands: **KABRAL DU MATHAN** (2.35 Cheltenham)

HOOF PRINTS

REBECCA CURTIS has identified the Denman Chase at Newbury as a possible stepping-stone to the Cheltenham Gold Cup for Welsh Grand National hero Haiti Couleurs.

"He's come out the race really well," Curtis said. "The Grand National is very tempting, but we really want to give him a go in the Gold Cup.

"If he was to run again it would be something like the Denman Chase next month."

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) A Balding 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Chester Williams 75% (2/1/4), E Walker 75% (3/3/8), N Richards 73% (2/6/11), S Edmunds 67% (2/2/6), D Whillans 60% (1/2/5), Billy Aprahamian 57% (1/3/7), Nick Scholfield 57% (3/1/7), A Nicol 50% (1/1/4), C Johnston 50% (1/2/6), Christian Williams 50% (2/1/6), E Lavelle 50% (2/4/12), I Williams 50% (2/2/8), J Scott 50% (2/3/10), M Botti 50% (3/0/6), R L Llewellyn 50% (2/1/6).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS David Nolan 86% (2 wins and 4 places from 7 runners), Hector Crouch 75% (3/3/8), Toby McCain-Mitchell 75% (1/2/4), Lorcan Williams 62% (2/3/8), Callum Pritchard 58% (2/5/12), Gavin Sheehan 57% (5/8/23), Jack Mitchell 56% (2/3/9), Robert Dunne 56% (2/3/9), Sean Bowen 55% (7/10/31), Billy Loughnane 53% (13/12/47), Tom Marquand 52% (3/8/21), Alan Doyle 50% (1/3/8), Liam Harrison 50% (1/3/8), Oisin Murphy 50% (3/3/12).

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EXETER RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

12.35 Seasmoke
1.10 Clondaw Park
1.45 Sober Glory
2.20 Bollin Thou
2.55 DISH OF THE DAY (nap)
3.30 Hors Jeu
4.00 Blackswan D'oroux

12.35 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE

£5,413 (Class 4) 3m 54yds (9 declared)

1	3612-34	**MAXIMUM OFFERS (35)** J Snowden 7 12-0	**J A Anderson**	86
2	2LLL-2L	**EASY TO FOLLOW (24)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 8 11-10	**L Scott**	111
3	6/311L-L	**JO LESCRIBAA (35) (D)** V Williams 7 11-6	**Murray Dodd(6)**	112
4	PLP-43L	**BORN AT MIDNIGHT (46)** Kathy Turner 11 11-4	**R David(3)**	★115
5	5/3L1P-P	**BAMPTON STAR (35) (C&D)** J Scott 9 11-2	**C Bament(3)**	112
6	43P-312	● **SEASMOKE (18) (D)** Billy Aprahamian 8 10-13	**J Andrews**	113
7	1261-P5	**JOHN W CREASY (21)** C Honour 8 10-8	**R Corcoran(5)**	110
8	65/5L6-P	**ARCTIC STREAM (39)** R Bandey 9 10-5	**N Fox**	–
9	P3-51PL	**EMBERSCOMBE (51)** J Tickle 9 10-2	**B Harris**	103

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Seasmoke, 10-3 Maximum Offers, 5 Jo Lescribaa, Born At Midnight, Easy To Follow, 16 Bampton Star, 25 John W Creasy, 50 Arctic Stream, 66 Emberscombe.

2025: Katate Dori 7-12-0, Shane Quinlan 15-2 (S Thomas), 10 ran.

1.10 MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)

£5,446 (4) 2m 2f 111yds (14)

1	43-5	**BEAUTY IN THE PARK (28)** P Nicholls 6 11-4	**B Bromley(5)**	98
2	PP-12LP	**BEE'S KISS (14)** J Frost 6 11-4	**B Le Clerc**	32
3	1-U	● **CLONDAW PARK (33)** Harry Derham 5 11-4	**Paul O'Brien**	–
4	52-L	**DALCASSIAN GIRL (57)** C Honour 6 11-4	**H Kimber**	–
5	U51/7-P	**DANCING SKY (70)** Gordon Treacy 7 11-4	**J Andrews(3)**	–
6	4L	**HALF PINT DAISY (23)** C Boultbee-Brooks 7 11-4	**Miss Clara Brewitt(7)**	82
7	46-L8	**HARLEY'S PRIDE (16)** D Pipe 6 11-4	**R Corcoran(7)**	77
8	3-31	**INDANNYA (1)** Chester Williams 5 11-4	**Doubtful**	
9	335-11	**LADY MAGIC (217)** T Symonds 5 11-4	**N Fox(5)**	–
10	41-2	**LIMERICK LASS (28)** A Honeyball 6 11-4	**Sean Houlihan**	★110
11	8-756	**LYDEARD GIRL (21)** K Woollacott 5 11-4	**Mr J Newman(5)**	89
12	9P-25	**MISS TIARA (42)** J Scott 6 11-4	**C Bament(7)**	97
13	8-	**MOONLIGHT STRIDE (255)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-4	**B R Jones**	–
14	53LP-L0	**REEL ORANGE (27)** C Down 7 11-4	**J M Davies**	51
15	1-	**SPRING SERENADE (354)** K Bishop 7 11-4	**J Best**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 10, 12 CHEEK PIECES: No. 14.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Limerick Lass, 7-2 Lady Magic, 9-2 Clondaw Park, 6 Miss Tiara, 10 Beauty In The Park, 12 Spring Serenade, 16 Moonlight Stride, Lydeard Girl, 50 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

1.45 THURLESTONE HOTEL NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)

£5,281 (4) 2m 161yds (10)

1	6-P1	**BLOWERS (14) (C&D)** N Hawke 6 11-9	**Miss E Herbison(7)**	120
2	1111-14	● **SOBER GLORY (26)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-9	**B R Jones**	★130
3	7	**AIR APPARENT (27)** Seamus Mullins 6 11-2	**L Williams**	95
4	490	**ARNIE MOON (27)** J Tickle 6 11-2	**Taylor Fisher**	75
5	6	**DEVON PAIGE (35)** J Frost 6 11-2	**B Le Clerc**	–
6	L	**DINO MOON (41)** E Williams 5 11-2	**C Ring**	–
7		**GAMBINO (F141)** D Skelton 5 11-2	**C J Todd**	–
8	F6/10-98	**MANHATTAN VALLEY (22)** Christian Williams 6 11-2	**Mr John Joe Murphy-Knight(7)**	98
9	48	**NICE ONE ERIC (34)** B Pauling 5 11-2	**K Woods**	114
10	LP-P68L	**TOBI KANOBEE (45)** Claire Hitch 7 11-2	**J Best**	77

SP FORECAST: 4-11 Sober Glory, 9-2 Gambino, 10 Blowers, 14 Nice One Eric, 25 Dino Moon, Devon Paige, 50 Manhattan Valley, Air Apparent, 100 Others.

2025: Peacenik 6-11-1, Shane Quinlan(3) 7-2 (Katy Price), 8 ran.

2.20 PRICEDUP THE JUMPS HANDICAP HURDLE (DIV 1)

£3,697 (5) 2m 5f 137yds (11)

1	1626-L1	**OUR DYLAN (42) (C)** K Woollacott 10 12-0	**Mr J Newman(5)**	102
2	7P-3F10	**HILLSIN (37) (C)** A Jones 8 11-12	**Mr E Vaughan(7)**	104
3	4125-03	**SHUIL CEOIL (47) (C&D)** N Mulholland 8 11-7	**B Harris(3)**	107
4	41/P333-	**BENIGNITAS (291)** Gordon Treacy 9 11-6	**R Corcoran(7)**	98
5	027/5-L5	**WESEEKHERTHERE (27)** P Hobbs & J White 7 10-13	**Sean Houlihan**	86
6	423323	**LOCKED DOWN LAD (39)** J Tickle 6 10-12	**Taylor Fisher**	104
7	4F4L4L	**BLUE IN THE WEST (22)** B Lund 9 10-8	**Shane Quinlan(3)**	108
8	1-LLL4L	**MOONLIGHT ARTIST (45) (C)** J Tizzard 8 10-4	**B Bromley(5)**	89
9	46-34U0	**THE LONGEST DAY (21)** Mrs S Leech 10 10-2	**Miss Roisin Leech(7)**	★109
10	88L-P41	● **BOLLIN THOU (27) (F)** Nick Scholfield 8 10-6(7ex)	**K Woods**	96
11	8/PU-PPP	**POET'S REFLECTION (35)** Miss L Blackford 11 10-2	**J Best**	–

BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 8, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 8, 9, 10.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Our Dylan, 5 Benignitas, 11-2 Bollin Thou, 7 Locked Down Lad, 15-2 Hillsin, 8 Moonlight Artist, Blue In The West, 12 Shuil Ceoil, 25 Others.

2025: Keable 8-12-0, Callum Pritchard(7) 5-4 Fav (P Hobbs & J White), 11 ran.

2.55 PRICEDUP THE JUMPS HANDICAP HURDLE (DIV 2)

£3,697 (5) 2m 5f 137yds (10)

1	16/01PL-	**LOOKING FOR LARRY (308) (C&D)** T Dennis 8 12-0	**C Bament(7)**	103
2	P20-P3P	**PACHACUTI (26)** D Pipe 9 11-12	**R Corcoran(7)**	★112
3	P41-663	**IRIS DES ISSARDS (35) (D)** K Woollacott 8 11-10	**Mr J Newman(5)**	106
4	LLP9-43	**STORMING NELSON (24) (C)** Mrs S Gardner 7 11-1	**Lucy Gardner**	105
5	P/F06P3-	● **DISH OF THE DAY (297)** Nicky Martin 8 10-13	**Sean Houlihan**	103
6	05L6/P4	**VENGEANCE (28)** J Frost 8 10-11	**J Best**	100
7	PPP/P-L3	**MAN OH MAN (35)** D Summersby 7 10-6	**B R Jones**	103
8	F0-2LL2	**WATCHOUTITSCOOKIE (42)** N Hawke 8 10-2	**J M Davies**	102
9	LP/289P-	**WILLIAM PHILO (300) (D)** B Lund 9 10-2	**Shane Quinlan(3)**	109
10	L24/U48	**FREDDIE FLEETFOOT (21)** C J Gray 8 10-2	**Mr Jack Stenhouse(7)**	98

BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 9.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Watchoutitscookie, 4 Storming Nelson, 9-2 Dish Of The Day, 5 Man Oh Man, 7 Iris Des Issards, 8 Pachacuti, 12 Vengeance, 16 Looking For Larry, 20 Others.

2025: Looking For Larry 7-11-8, Mr J Bament(7) 9-4 Fav (T Dennis), 11 ran.

3.30 PRICEDUP DAILY RACING BOOSTS HANDICAP CHS

£3,961 (5) 2m 3f 48yds (13)

1	12/0P2-6	**BONZA BOY (26) (C&D)** J Scott 9 12-0	**L Williams**	★111
2	4PL7-4U	● **HORS JEU (11)** C Boultbee-Brooks 6 11-13	**N Fox(5)**	90
3	LL6-P24	**CARRIGMOORNA ROWAN (29)** R Potter 9 11-12	**R David(7)**	99
4	4217-6P	**RANGATIRA JACK (14) (C&D)** Miss L Blackford 8 11-4	**Sean Houlihan**	110
5	P6/P2L-1	**KINGCORMAC (22)** J Tickle 10 11-0	**Taylor Fisher**	106
6	7-2236P	**LOUGH OWEL (24)** D Summersby 8 10-8	**B R Jones**	109
7	0L13-5L	**OWL OF ATHENS (21)** E Williams 7 10-7	**C Ring**	91
8	56-3FP3	**DARING PLAN (24)** Mrs S Gardner 8 10-6	**C P O'Shea(7)**	109
9	55P05	**KER D'OUDAIRIES (53)** Christian Williams 6 10-4	**K Woods**	–
10	4/L48-PP	**SENOR DIAZ (14)** J Frost 7 10-2	**B Le Clerc**	–
11	8/996-7L	**BREAK HEART HILL (24)** Mrs F M Shaw 8 10-2	**J Best**	–
12	033-PFP	**FIREFLY LANE (133)** J Frost 10 10-2	**B Bromley(5)**	84
13	L07PP-P	**ALDERLEY CHARLIE (14)** P Gundry 6 10-2	**H Kimber**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 6, 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 11 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Kingcormac, 4 Hors Jeu, 13-2 Carrigmoorna Rowan, Bonza Boy, 10 Daring Plan, 12 Ker D'oudairies, Rangatira Jack, 16 Firefly Lane, 20 Others.

2025: Flash Gorcombe 8-11-12, Harry Kimber 10-3 (R Walford), 5 ran.

4.00 RACING BLOGGER OPEN MAIDEN NH FLAT RACE

£2,178 (5) 2m 161yds (12)

1	3	**BIG JOHN OLLIE (65)** D Skelton 5 11-8	**C J Todd**	★104
2		● **BLACKSWAN D'OROUX** B Pauling 5 11-8	**B R Jones**	–
3		**ELUSIVE PB (F)** Nick Scholfield 5 11-8	**K Woods**	–
4	22	**I'M WIDE AWAKE (27)** Mrs S Gardner 6 11-8	**Lucy Gardner**	103
5		**KIPTANUY** W J Burke (IRE) 5 11-8	**J Andrews(3)**	–
6		**LE COLD GREY** P Nicholls 5 11-8	**L Williams**	–
7		**VALIANT SOLDIER** J Tizzard 5 11-8	**Paul O'Brien**	–
8		**FOUNTAINS GALA** Claire Hitch 6 11-1	**J Best**	–
9		**HOTTER THAN DUBAI** C Honour 5 11-1	**Miss T Eyston(7)**	–
10	0	**ROB'S SPIRIT (41)** Nick Scholfield 5 11-1	**Mr E Edge(7)**	37
11	0	**TOPSHAM TIDE (27)** C Down 5 11-1	**J M Davies**	42
12		**UP THE HILL** P Gundry 5 11-1	**H Kimber**	–

HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 2 Blackswan D'oroux, 7-2 Big John Ollie, 4 I'm Wide Awake, 9-2 Le Cold Grey, 10 Valiant Soldier, 14 Kiptanuy, Elusive Pb, 25 Up The Hill, 50 Others.

2025: Pethers Lane 4-10-9, David Noonan 9-1 (Mrs J Williams), 8 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Lorcan Williams 18% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** P Nicholls 27% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.10 Reel Orange (cheek pieces), 2.20 Weseekherthere (blinkers), Shuil Ceoil (visor), 2.55 Iris Des Issards (blinkers), Pachacuti (visor), 3.30 Break Heart Hill (cheek pieces), 4.00 Elusive Pb (hood), 12.35 Maximum Offers (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.35 Maximum Offers(hcp ch), Seasmoke(hcp ch). 1.10 Beauty In The Park, Limerick Lass. 1.45 Sober Glory. 2.55 Dish Of The Day(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Kiptanuy** (4.00) Ireland; **Arctic Stream** (12.35) 181 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.10 **Dancing Sky** from Miss Suzy Smith to Gordon Treacy, **Lady Magic** from A Fouassier in France to T Symonds, **Spring Serenade** from Alan Ahern to K Bishop. 1.45 **Gambino** from N Meade in Ireland to D Skelton.

BILLY THE RECORD BREAKER

By **David Yates**

BILLY LOUGHNANE made 21st century history with his 222nd winner of 2025 when Invited scored at Lingfield yesterday.

The 19-year-old went into the final day of the year sharing the modern-day best of 221 with six-time champion jockey Kieren Fallon.

And Loughnane, son of Worcestershire-based trainer Mark, clinched the outright record as Invited, the heavily supported 4-5 market leader for the BetMGM's Golden Goals Handicap, made all the running to hold Hitched by a neck and give the jockey's boss George Boughey his 100th winner of the past 12 months.

"I'm delighted to get it done," said the teenage riding sensation.

"I wouldn't be where I am without George – he's been everything to me since I started – and I'm delighted to get his 100th winner for the year as well.

Loughnane, who starts 2026 with five mounts at Southwell today before jetting off for a two-month stint in Dubai, added: "I love my job!

"I was actually looking at the list of jockeys last night and to be in it is extraordinary."

JOY: Billy Loughnane with his winner, Invited

MUSSELBURGH RACINGTV

12.30 VIRGIN BET JUVENILE HURDLE 4YO

£5,446 (Class 4) 1m 7f 124yds (10 dec)

1	314	**SCARLET MOON (26) (D,F) (T)** A Watson 11-7	**B Poste**	★114
2	24P	**ARCTIC VOYAGE (16)** I Jardine 11-0	**B Hughes**	113
3	6	**ASHDOWN FOREST (20)** J O'Keeffe 11-0	**Sean Quinlan**	83
4	5	**BELAYA RIVER (15) (T)** Harry Derham 11-0	**H Reed**	107
5	L	**CANAVAN (34)** L Russell & M Scudamore 11-0	**A Doyle(3)**	73
6		● **FALLS OF ACHARN (F93) (T)** P Nicholls 11-0	**F Gingell**	–
7		**FLAGSTONE (F156) (T)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 11-0	**Craig Nichol**	–
8	7	**GLENRIDDING (F115)** Ewan Whillans 11-0	**C Bewley**	89
9	7	**ORPHAN OLLIE (20)** L Russell & M Scudamore 11-0	**S Mulqueen**	75
10		**BLONDINA (F209)** A Nicol 10-7	**C Maggs(5)**	–

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Falls Of Acharn, 5-2 Scarlet Moon, 6 Arctic Voyage, 15-2 Belaya River, 16 Canavan, Ashdown Forest, Blondina, 20 Flagstone, Glenridding, 50 Orphan Ollie.

2025: Johnny Ringo 11-0, Derek Fox 4-5 Fav (L Russell), 8 ran.

1.05 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

£4,225 (5) 2m 4f 68yds (7)

1	F/LP3P-8	**OZZY COSMO (61)** N Alexander 7 12-0	**R Mania**	103
2	4/4959-4	● **LORD DE VINCI (18)** D Bourke 8 11-10	**C Bewley**	–
3	49-1P74	**MARTY MCFLY (24) (D)** A M Thomson 8 11-8	**B Hughes**	★106
4	31353/F	**FIVEAFTERFOUR (24)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11-7	**Jack Power(5)**	–
5	L36L45	**CAGE RATTLER (24)** S Forster 6 10-10	**H Reed**	–
6	747-355	**DIDNTGOTWENTY (31) (F)** M Todhunter 7 10-2	**Sean Quinlan**	93
7	L75/45L-	**PARISH STAR (377)** A Nicol 6 10-2	**C Maggs(5)**	–

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6.

SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 4, 1.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Fiveafterfour, 4 Didntgotwenty, Marty Mcfly, 11-2 Ozzy Cosmo, 6 Lord De Vinci, 13-2 Cage Rattler, 16 Parish Star.

2025: Okavango Delta 9-12-0, Craig Nichol 11-4 (Paul Robson), 7 ran.

1.40 VIRGIN BET HANDICAP HURDLE ITV1

£15,609 (3) 2m 3f 171yds (9)

1 212/112- **WISE EAGLE (F20) (C)** 9 12 0 **R Mania** 125
Runs: 6 Wins: 3(A,GS,G) Places: 3 £19,048
Trainer: A Nicol Owner: The Seahouses Syndicate

2 313112 **MOONBOW (67) (D)** 6 11 13 **B Hughes** ★130
Runs: 10 Wins: 5(GS,G) Places: 3 £29,390
Trainer: P Neville Owner: Mr J Fyffe And Mrs W Duffus

3 31-L151 **SERIOUS CHAT (33) (D,F,T)** 7 11 12 **C Maggs(5)** 124
Runs: 12 Wins: 5(S,G) Places: 2 £32,192
Trainer: D McCain Owner: Greyland Ltd

4 1315-L4 **BOLD LIGHT (33) (C&D)** 9 11 11 **A Doyle(3)** 128
Runs: 12 Wins: 3(S,GS) Places: 3 £49,093
Trainer: L Russell & M Scudamore Owner: Mr J Scott

5 2143-27 ● **SMOKERINGINTHEDARK (47) (C&D)** 6 11 6 **C Bewley** 128
Runs: 6 Wins: 1(GS) Places: 3 £9,612
Trainer: N Richards Owner: Eddie Melville & Kenny Haughey

6 123-551 **FASOL (54) (T)** 7 11 4 **Miss Olive Nicholls(5)** 129
Runs: 12 Wins: 2(G) Places: 5 £39,236
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Mr P J Vogt And Mr Bryan Drew

7 11-6322 **BEL AMIGO (25)** 7 11 2 **B Lynn** 128
Runs: 24 Wins: 4(S,GS,G) Places: 7 £76,341
Trainer: N Alexander Owner: The Dregs Of Humanity

8 44121L **HEART ABOVE (25) (C)** 8 10 12 **Sean Quinlan** 127
Runs: 26 Wins: 4(GS,G) Places: 11 £43,245
Trainer: D Sayer Owner: Margaret Coppola & Dianne Sayer

9 113-21 **CHANONRY POINT (34) (C)** 6 10 11 **P W Wadge** 117
Runs: 5 Wins: 3(GS) Places: 1 £11,348
Trainer: L Russell & M Scudamore Owner: Mr Gerry McGladery

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 6, 7, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6.

SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 4, 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Fasol, 9-2 Wise Eagle, Moonbow, 5 Smokeringinthedark, 7 Chanonry Point, 15-2 Serious Chat, 12 Bold Light, 14 Bel Amigo, 16 Heart Above.

2025: Bold Light 8-10-12, Alan Doyle(5) 7-2 (L Russell), 6 ran.

GUIDE: WISE EAGLE has won two of his four starts over hurdles, here (2m, gd-sft) and at Catterick (2m3f, gd), and after a recent run on the Flat at Southwell (2m, tpt), he will not be lacking race fitness ahead of his return to the winter game. **Chanonry Point** won here in November (2m, gd-sft) and has a two-out-of-two record at the track, making the lightly-raced mare an interesting option on her handicap bow for the stable that won this with **Bold Light** last year (sft). The Nicholls horses have been among the winners and Wincanton (1m7f, gd) scorer **Fasol** is a serious player.

2.15 AULD REEKIE HANDICAP CHASE ITV1

£26,015 (2) 2m 4f 68yds (9)

1 U33-355 **TOMMY'S OSCAR (25) (F)** 11 12 0 **Sean Quinlan** ★146
Runs: 44 Wins: 13(S,GS,G) Places: 10 £293,189
Trainer: A Hamilton Owner: Mr Ian Hamilton

2 5/2118-L **THE KALOOKI KID (60) (C&D)** 8 11 13 **C Bewley** 141
Runs: 14 Wins: 4(S,GS,G) Places: 4 £90,325
Trainer: N Richards Owner: Eddie Melville & Kenny Haughey

3 23L188- ● **INSURRECTION (250) (C&D,T)** 9 11 13 **F Gingell** 145
Runs: 14 Wins: 4(S,GS) Places: 3 £62,746
Trainer: P Nicholls Owner: Noel Fehily Racing Syndicate - Insurre

4 2114-L2 **JET TO VEGAS (41)** 7 11 11 **B Hughes** 140
Runs: 9 Wins: 3(S,GS) Places: 2 £67,150
Trainer: L Russell & M Scudamore Owner: Fyffe, Walkingshaw & Russell

5 L/3771-P **INOX ALLEN (68) (D)** 8 11 3 **A Doyle(3)** 141
Runs: 10 Wins: 4(S,G S) Places: 1 £25,365
Trainer: L Russell & M Scudamore Owner: Thunder Holdings, Milne & Russell

6 431L5P **MALYSTIC (19) (T)** 12 11 2 **R Mania** 143
Runs: 40 Wins: 9(S,A,GS,G) Places: 8 £159,774
Trainer: P Niven Owner: Clova Syndicate And Mr P D Niven

7 22P1-L5 **BLEU D'ENFER (26) (D,T)** 8 10 12 **C Maggs(5)** 143
Runs: 25 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 8 £40,415
Trainer: D McCain Owner: Mr J Fyffe

8 475314 **REXEM (70) (D)** 9 10 8 **D A Kidd(7)** 135
Runs: 23 Wins: 6(G) Places: 5 £47,388
Trainer: J McConnell (IRE) Owner: Mr D Kierans

9 349333 **BREIZH RIVER (33)** 8 10 3 **H Reed** 143
Runs: 21 Wins: 3(G) Places: 6 £57,646
Trainer: T Davidson Owner: Border Caravans Ltd

VISOR: Nos. 5, 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 9
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7, 8, 9.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 5, 3, 4, 6, 2, 1.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 The Kalooki Kid, 7-2 Jet To Vegas, 5 Insurrection, 8 Inox Allen, 10 Rexem, Breizh River, 12 Tommy's Oscar, Malystic, 25 Bleu D'enfer.

2025: Boomslang 8-10-9, Ross Chapman 3-1 JtFav (R Menzies), 8 ran.

THE SCOUT

12.30 Falls Of Acharn
1.05 Lord De Vinci
1.40 Smokeringinthedark
2.15 Insurrection
2.51 Snowrocco
3.25 Cueros

GUIDE: The Kalooki Kid returns to handicap company 8lb higher than when successful over C&D (gd-sft) last term. **Jet To Vegas** is preferred on his handicap bow, having found one too good in both starts over fences so far, including at Ascot (2m5f, gd) last time. However, Paul Nicholls boasts an impressive strike-rate at Musselburgh and won over track and trip (gd-sft) with the returning **INSURRECTION** last season. The nine-year-old remains on a decent mark and gets the vote with plenty of scope for further improvement. Clonmel winner (2m4f, gd) **Rexem** is another to note.

2.51 LIVESCORE BET HANDICAP HURDLE

£5,281 (4) 2m 7f 180yds (8)

1	240-223	**KOOL RAOUL (22)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 12-0	**Jack Power(5)**	105
2	415-4L5	**JENA D'OUDAIRIES (26) (T)** P Nicholls 7 12-0	**F Gingell**	107
3	L4-243L	**WOLFSPEAR (29)** D Bourke 10 12-0	**C Bewley**	111
4	9322	**BIGLESISBACK (25)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 11-12	**G Walkingshaw(10)**	108
5	8472-L1	● **SNOWROCCO (21) (D)** A Nicol 7 11-10	**R Mania**	108
6	663235	**REMEMBERTHENAME (25)** A M Thomson 6 11-9	**Craig Nichol**	108
7	3-L2353	**ARTIC MANN (24)** N Alexander 12 11-8	**B Lynn**	113
8	34F32L	**WEARELONGTERM (24)** D Sayer 9 10-9	**C Maggs(5)**	★115

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Snowrocco, 3 Biglesisback, 4 Kool Raoul, 5 Others.

2025: Top Man Tom 6-11-11, Ryan Mania 10-3 (A M Thomson), 8 ran.

3.25 VIRGIN BET HANDICAP HURDLE

£10,562 (3) 1m 7f 124yds (9)

1	2-31181	**MR MCLOUGHLAN (40) (D) (T)** Jack Jones 6 12-0	**F Gingell**	122
2	230P-73	**AFADIL (26) (C&D) (T)** P Nicholls 7 11-10	**Miss Olive Nicholls(5)**	122
3	7-35121	**CITY OF DIAMONDS (34) (C&D) (T)** D McCain 6 11-8	**B Hughes**	124
4	L52-324	**EVALUATION (78) (D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11-8	**Doubtful**	
5	51126-7	**BASHFUL (208) (C&D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11-6	**A Doyle(3)**	125
6	122	● **CUEROS (31) (T)** Harry Derham 6 11-6	**H Reed**	121
7	24-5F21	**CHASE A FORTUNE (26) (D,F)** C Grant 8 11-4	**C Maggs(5)**	122
8	U302-L4	**ADMIRALTY HOUSE (25) (D)** A M Thomson 7 11-4	**C Bewley**	★128
9	314-3U2	**STAR OF GUITING (34)** Ewan Whillans 5 11-0	**Craig Nichol**	124
10	55-9145	**RAVENSCRAIG CASTLE (34) (D)** I Jardine 8 11-0	**Sean Quinlan**	124

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 5, 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5, 7, 10 HOOD: No. 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 5, 7.

SP FORECAST: 3 City Of Diamonds, 7-2 Cueros, 4 Chase A Fortune, 11-2 Mr Mcloughlan, 6 Afadil, 12 Bashful, 16 Star Of Guiting, 20 Others.

2025: Slugger 6-12-0, Alice Stevens(3) 5-6 Fav (Harry Derham), 6 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 19% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** I Jardine 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.05 Didntgotwenty (cheek pieces), Parish Star (tongue strap), 1.40 Wise Eagle (cheek pieces), 2.15 Malystic (visor), 12.30 Ashdown Forest (blinkers), Arctic Voyage (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.30 Ashdown Forest, Blondina(hcp). 1.40 Smokeringinthedark(hcp hdl). **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.30 **Blondina** from J S Bolger in Ireland to A Nicol, **Falls Of Acharn** from J Harrington in Ireland to P Nicholls, **Flagstone** from John Murphy in Ireland to O Greenall & J Guerriero, **Glenridding** from D & C Kubler to Ewan Whillans. 1.05 **Parish Star** from N Hawke to A Nicol. 3.25 **Bashful** from I Jardine to L Russell & M Scudamore.

12.20 HAPPY NEW YEAR NOVICES' HURDLE

£5,446 (Class 4) 2m 3f 66yds (6 dec)

1	14-51	**SILVER HILL (41) (C&D) (T)** J Snowden 6 11-12	**S Sheppard**	101
2	1/13-53	**IN THE AGE (50)** D Skelton 6 11-5	**Harry Atkins(7)**	118
3	23-224	● **PIONEER PETE (22) (T)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-5	**K Brogan**	★122
4	4-35	**RATEMENOW (32)** S Corbett 5 11-5	**N Moscrop**	–
5		**INLET (F58)** M Sowersby 5 10-12	**W Maggs(5)**	–
6	P	**LADY LUCKY (16)** J Bedi 8 10-12	**A Anderson(5)**	–

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Pioneer Pete, 7-4 In The Age, 7-2 Silver Hill, 20 Inlet, Ratemenow, 150 Lady Lucky.

2025: It's All About You 5-11-12, Sean Quinlan 5-6 Fav (J Candlish), 6 ran.

12.55 HANDICAP CHASE

£4,225 (5) 2m 3f 51yds (4)

1	L5113-3	● **IMPERIAL RULE (56) (C&D)** Lizzie Quinlan 9 12-0	**R Chapman**	93
2	70L01L	**EL MUCHACHO (38) (F)** M Sowersby 9 11-10	**A Anderson(5)**	★99
3	43L-153	**DEFENCE WITNESS (16)** S England 7 11-7	**J Hamilton**	94
4	235455	**BEAT THE EDGE (4) (C&D)** M Hammond 9 10-9	**C Rabbitt(3)**	95

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 10-11 Imperial Rule, 10-3 Beat The Edge, 4 Defence Witness, 6 El Muchacho.

2025: Beat The Edge 8-11-2, Emma Smith-Chaston(3) Evens Fav (M Hammond), 4 ran.

1.30 BET AT RACING TV MAIDEN HURDLE

£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 156yds (8)

1	5	**APACHE EAGLE (F26)** J Bedi 5 11-6	**A Anderson(5)**	101
2		**HAVE SECRET (F17) (F)** R Fahey 6 11-6	**J Hamilton**	–
3	3P6F-30	**INEDIT D'AMOUR (32)** D McCain 5 11-6	**T Gillard**	104
4	L	**INTENZO (232)** M Walford 5 11-6	**T Midgley(3)**	35
5	2-1F	● **NOT FOR PASSIN (60) (T)** R L Llewellyn 6 11-6	**L Harrison**	–
6	1P-92	**UNJEU ROYAL (40) (T)** T Lacey 5 11-6	**Doubtful**	★110
7	P	**WILLIAM WALTON (117) (T)** J & A O'Neill 5 11-6	**K Brogan**	–
8	3140	**DOTTIES PROMISE (25)** S Corbett 6 10-13	**N Moscrop**	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Have Secret, 5-2 Not For Passin, 10-3 Dotties Promise, 7 Inedit D'amour, 12 William Walton, 33 Apache Eagle, Intenzo.

2025: No corresponding race.

2.05 RACINGTV.COM HANDICAP CHASE

£4,225 (5) 1m 7f 145yds (5)

1	5L-3L11	● **SUPREME GEORGE (4) (C&D)** D McCain 6 12-2(7ex)	**T Gillard**	★122
2	F34P31/	**COUPDEBOL (940)** P Winks 11 12-0	**C Rabbitt(3)**	–
3	585F-8P	**STARMAN (38)** J E Foster 10 11-13	**A Anderson(5)**	120
4	L-FB2L4	**TREATY BOY (22) (C&D)** W Coltherd 9 11-2	**R Chapman**	110
5	2P6-L2L	**ZARA'S UNIVERSE (6) (D)** A Crook 10 10-2	**J Williamson(3)**	103

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Supreme George, 11-4 Coupdebol, 7 Treaty Boy, 12 Zara's Universe, 20 Starman.

2025: Ensel Du Perche 11-10-2, Charlie Maggs(5) 9-2 (Mrs Stella Barclay), 3 ran.

2.40 HANDICAP HURDLE

£4,225 (5) 3m 1f 71yds (15)

1	P124-25	**BOLLIN NEIL (16) (C&D)** T Easterby 10 12-0	**Mr William Easterby(5)**	100
2	15-147L	**THE WISE TRAVELLER (40) (D) (T)** S Humphrey 10 11-11	**J Gambin(7)**	100
3	1FP5P-5	● **LATHAN (27)** M Hammond 7 11-7	**J Thompson(7)**	99
4	267-574	**CORAL BLUE (24) (C)** D Bourke 11 11-2	**T Gillard**	100
5	LL7338	**KNIGHTSBRIDGE (21) (T)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-2	**K Brogan**	101
6	7158-L8	**TWOPLACESATONETIME (16)** R Menzies 8 11-0	**Mr P Thomas(7)**	75
7	9-467P3	**REBEL INTENTIONS (16)** Annabelle Sowray 9 10-13	**N Moscrop**	★102
8	OP/27-99	**RELIANCE KID (32)** A Wilson 7 10-12	**P J Kavanagh**	89
9	5PP-64L	**KING CASEY (21)** J E Foster 6 10-12	**J Hamilton**	99
10	LP9624	**EAST EAGLE (28) (F)** M Sowersby 6 10-10	**A Anderson(5)**	97
11	13843L	**MATOURY (36)** M Sowersby 7 10-10	**W Maggs(5)**	99
12	055225	**ZEEZEE (31)** A Nicol 7 10-3	**R Chapman**	98
13	3P-5L45	**WEST LAWN (22)** J Walton 10 10-2	**Charlotte Jones**	77
14	234PL0	**FOX'S SOCKS (60)** M Sowersby 11 10-2	**P Hanlon(5)**	98
15	64L-PL3	**FANCY NANCY PANTS (5)** P Kirby 6 10-2	**J Williamson(3)**	94

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Rebel Intentions, 5 East Eagle, 13-2 Bollin Neil, Fancy Nancy Pants, 8 Knightsbridge, 10 Coral Blue, The Wise Traveller, Zeezee, 12 Others.

2025: Jongleur D'etoiles 6-11-2, Richie McLernon Evens Fav (N Mulholland), 7 ran.

CATTERICK RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

12.20 Pioneer Pete
12.55 Imperial Rule
1.30 Not For Passin
2.05 Supreme George
2.40 Lathan
3.20 Killycarn

3.20 HANDICAP HURDLE

£4,225 (5) 1m 7f 156yds (10)

1	395-4P6	**BYRON HILL (21)** P Neville 9 12-0	**P Hanlon(5)**	95
2	41-8L13	**JOHN BETJEMAN (10) (D,F)** D McCain 10 11-12	**T Gillard**	108
3	P-2938	● **KILLYCARN (26)** J Parkinson & S Smith 6 11-10	**P J Kavanagh**	107
4	P/61U5-P	**BODYGROOVE (49) (D)** M Hammond 6 11-6	**J Thompson(7)**	105
5	245364	**WIND YOUR NECK IN (28)** S England 7 11-5	**T Midgley(3)**	110
6	1/	**GOZO (F264)** A B Hamilton 6 11-4	**C Rabbitt(3)**	–
7	324-847	**CHARACTER TESTING (34)** M Walford 5 11-2	**J Hamilton**	105
8	P2131D	**CAWTHORNE BANKER (75) (D) (T)** J & A O'Neill 8 10-13	**K Brogan**	107
9	22LF-L4	**LAHIRE (F13)** D McCain 6 10-11	**W Maggs(5)**	★111
10	347L-PL	**SUSIESPARKLE (F42)** M Sowersby 6 10-7	**A Anderson(5)**	100

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 10
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 8, 9.

SP FORECAST: 3 John Betjeman, 4 Wind Your Neck In, 5 Cawthorne Banker, Gozo, 13-2 Killycarn, 10 Character Testing, 12 Lahire, 14 Byron Hill, 20 Others.

2025: Maghlaak 6-12-4, James Robottom(10) 10-11 Fav (A Keatley), 5 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Jamie Hamilton 9% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** T Easterby 12% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.30 Intenzo (hood), 2.40 Zeezee (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 3.20 Gozo (cheek pieces, tongue strap), Bodygroove (blinkers), 12.55 Imperial Rule (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.30 Unjeu Royal. 2.40 Zeezee(hcp hdl). 3.20 Cawthorne Banker(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Not For Passin** (1.30) 236 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.20 **Inlet** from R Guest to M Sowersby. 1.30 **Intenzo** from Mary Ellen Doyle in Ireland to M Walford. 2.05 **Coupdebol** from T R George to P Winks. 3.20 **Character Testing** from T Ellis to M Walford, **Gozo** from B Brookhouse to A B Hamilton.

UK RESULTS

LINGFIELD: Standard

12.00—MARSEILLAN (G Wood, 4-5 fav) 1; Eternity's Sunrise (11-4 2nd fav) 2; Wind Summer (5-1) 3. 10 ran. 1¼l, ½l. (Lemos Souza). Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £1.10, £1.80. exacta: £3.90. trifecta: £9.70. CSF: £3.23.

12.30—CRYINGINTHERAIN (H Crouch, 16-1) 1; Hen Party (10-11 fav) 2; Wild Act (2-1 2nd fav) 3. 6 ran. 1¾l, 2¼l. (Ollie Sangster). Tote: £17.00; pl £2.90, £1.10. exacta: £21.10. trifecta: £57.20. CSF: £31.86. Non-runner: Alpine Culture.

1.00—LORD HARCOURT (K Shoemark, 10-11 fav) 1; Akabusi (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Up The Agenda (6-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ½l, 1¼l. (E Walker). Tote: £1.91; pl £1.30, £2.10. exacta: £5.50. trifecta: £13.70. CSF: £4.65.

1.30—BALDOMERO (H Davies, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Clearpoint (85-40 fav) 2; Fidelius (7-2) 3. H'cap 5 ran. ½l, hd. (M Appleby). Tote: £3.90; pl £1.50, £1.90. exacta: £8.60. trifecta: £22.60. CSF: £9.13.

2.00—NEBRAS (O Murphy, 7-2) 1; Tyrrhenian Sea (13-8 fav) 2; Duke's Command (12-1) 3. 5 ran. shd, 2¼l. (J & T Gosden). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.80, £1.50. exacta: £8.00. trifecta: £27.20. CSF: £9.86.

2.30—INVITED (B Loughnane, 4-5 fav) 1; Hitched (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Way To Dubai (10-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. nk, ½l. (G Boughey). Tote: £1.80; pl £1.40, £1.60. exacta: £5.10. trifecta: £18.00. CSF: £3.87.

3.00—HANDLE WITH CARE (H Doyle, 17-2) 1; Crystal Dagger (28-1) 2; Gaiety Musical (13-8 fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. hd, ¾l. (M Botti). Tote: £9.50; pl £3.60, £7.20. exacta: £169.50. trifecta: £940.10. CSF: £163.99.

3.30—LAZZAR (F Marsh, 10-3) 1; Profit Street (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Woodhay Whisper (11-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. nk, nk. (R Hughes; 15-8 fav Twilight Madness). Tote: £4.34; pl £1.70, £1.40, £1.90. exacta: £14.70. tricast: £98.70. trifecta: £111.00. CSF: £13.95. Non-runners: Ardaddy, Faustus, Twirler.

Placepot: £3.80
Quadpot: £2.20

UTTOXETER: Good to soft-soft in places

12.43—JOHN BARBOUR (J J Burke, 15-8 2nd fav) 1; Woodland Park (11-10 fav) 2; Catch On Me (5-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. ½l, 2¼l. (F O'Brien). Tote: £2.88; pl £1.10, £1.10, £1.30. exacta: £5.20. tricast: £7.89. trifecta: £12.40. CSF: £4.61.

1.13—BOLLIN THOU (S Bowen, 11-4 fav) 1; Glengolly (9-2) 2; La Higuera (4-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 6½l, 1¼l. (Nick Scholfield). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.90, £1.90, £1.80. exacta: £22.90. tricast: £53.26. trifecta: £79.30. CSF: £16.20.

1.43—LON CHANEY (S Bowen, evens fav) 1; Inishcorker (11-5 2nd fav) 2; Firm But Fair (4-1) 3. 4 ran. 8½l, 9l. (O Murphy). Tote: £2.00; exacta: £3.70. trifecta: £7.10. CSF: £3.61. Non-runner: Dublin City.

2.13—POSTPONED LEGACY (J Best, 11-4 fav) 1; Kenzoko (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Eric Carmen (11-2) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 7½l, 5½l. (M Keighley). Tote: £4.20; pl £1.80, £2.00, £2.00. exacta: £28.60. tricast: £60.76. trifecta: £94.00. CSF: £14.60. Non-runner: Port Or Starboard.

2.43—JACQUES CLOUSEAU (C Deutsch, 13-2) 1; Mumford's Magic (40-1) 2; Kalhandrion (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 3¼l, hd. (Mrs M Rowley; 9-4 fav Kepler's Law). Tote: £7.50; pl £1.20, £5.90, £1.80. exacta: £201.00. tricast: £825.84. trifecta: £1756.40. CSF: £212.06.

3.13—EXPRESS SURPRISE (R Patrick, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Smurfette (22-1) 2; Fortunefavorsdbold (13-2) 3. H'cap 13 ran. nk, 21l. (C Boultbee-Brooks; 9-4 fav Keppel Queen). Tote: £5.30; pl £1.70, £5.00, £1.90. exacta: £106.90. tricast: £583.14. trifecta: £2094.60. CSF: £94.30. Non-runner: Pougne Aminta.

3.43—MILLSTATT ABBEY (J J Burke, 15-2) 1; Rainbow Tara (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Fern Gully (evens fav) 3. 12 ran. 9½l, ¾l. (Noel Williams). Tote: £9.60; pl £2.60, £1.60, £1.20. exacta: £42.90. trifecta: £117.50. CSF: £34.16.

Placepot: £24.20. Quadpot: £15.80

WARWICK: Good to soft-good in places

12.20—HAPPY AND FINE (T Broughton, 9-1) 1; The Newest One (17-2) 2; Georges Saint (13-2) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. (A Hales; 11-8 fav Catch Catchfire). Tote: £10.20; pl £3.50, £4.00. exacta: £75.40. trifecta: £376.90. CSF: £72.85. Non-runner: Captain Boudet.

12.52—INDANNYA (L Williams, 3-1 2nd fav) 1; Fresh As A Daisy (9-2) 2; Pismo Beach (9-2) 3. 12 ran. 1½l, 8l. (Chester Williams; 11-4 fav Katie's Melody). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.50, £1.70, £1.80. exacta: £17.40. trifecta: £78.90. CSF: £17.53. Non-runner: Khutulun Khan.

1.22—FOLLOWING CHAPTER (C Gethings, 10-3 fav) 1; Madajovy (4-1) 2; Katira Du Mestivel (25-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 4l, 1½l. (A Ralph). Tote: £4.34; pl £1.80, £1.80, £6.30. exacta: £20.40. tricast: £296.34. trifecta: £554.30. CSF: £17.99.

1.52—ROGER RAREBIT (S Sheppard, 6-1) 1; Koenigsstern (13-2) 2; Rathmacknee (20-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 2½l, 21l. (T Lacey; 9-5 fav Cornish Comedy). Tote: £7.00; pl £1.90, £2.20, £4.70. exacta: £48.40. tricast: £736.58. trifecta: £367.30. CSF: £45.01. Non-runner: The Grey Man.

2.22—BENIGN DICTATOR (J Bryan, 14-1) 1; Sunshine Diamond (15-2) 2; Getaway Theatre (4-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 4½l, 8½l. (O Murphy; 2-1 fav Harry Bright). Tote: £15.00; pl £4.50, £3.60. exacta: £104.90. tricast: £503.49. trifecta: £461.40. CSF: £109.27. Non-runner: Jolie Baie.

2.52—STICK WITH ME SAM (R T Dunne, 13-8 fav) 1; El Rojo Grande (13-2) 2; Chestnut Pete (15-2) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 3½l, ns. (T R Gretton). Tote: £2.63; pl £1.30, £2.90. exacta: £11.20. trifecta: £34.30. CSF: £12.41. Non-runner: Hawk Stone.

3.22—RISKY OBSESSION (H Skelton, 7-4 2nd fav) 1; Smile John Boy (evens fav) 2; Midnight Doyen (25-1) 3. 9 ran. 6½l, 4½l. (D Skelton). Tote: £2.75; pl £1.10, £1.10, £3.40. exacta: £4.70. trifecta: £34.50. CSF: £3.91.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £10,146.83 carried over.
Placepot: £17,500.30
Quadpot: £321.70

WINDSOR SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

11.49 Flagon Dry
12.24 Pottersville
12.59 BOBBI WITH AN I (nb)
1.34 Norn Iron
2.09 Joe Cotton
2.50 Hartington
3.22 Fortune Dancer

11.49 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE

£5,281 (Class 5) 2m (11 declared)

1	31-50LL	**DELTA BLUES BELLE (20)** D Skelton 6 11-12	**T Durrell**	84
2	23LL6L	**LINDEN LANE (101)** E Williams 6 11-12	**E Collier(5)**	94
3	48PP4	**THIS SWAY (18)** M Comley 5 11-11	**T Broughton(5)**	85
4	764-68L	**AWAY FOR THE NIGHT (18)** A Hales 7 11-11	**T McCain-Mitchell(5)**	100
5	755-PP3	**MIDNIGHT VIEW (29)** M Sheppard 6 11-10	**B J Powell**	96
6	7R4	**THE PADSTER (55)** J Tickle 5 11-10	**C O'Farrell**	85
7	325-P07	**EL GAVILAN (29)** C Boultbee-Brooks 5 11-9	**R Patrick**	78
8	3544/2L	**CUMHACHT (20) (T)** R Curtis 8 11-7	**J Brace(5)**	98
9	53-2LL6	**RUKAANA (21)** J & A O'Neill 5 11-4	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	85
10	424	● **FLAGON DRY (38)** W Greatrex 4 10-12	**C Quinn**	★102
11	593P3P	**SAUCATS (27)** J Tickle 5 10-9	**T Cannon**	85

BLINKERS: Nos. 9, 10 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 7, 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 3 Rukaana, 7-2 Midnight View, 5 Cumhacht, 7 This Sway, 8 Delta Blues Belle, 10 Flagon Dry, 12 Saucats, 16 The Padster, 20 Others.

2025: No corresponding meeting.

12.24 OLIVER JORG TIES NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)

£7,922 (3) 2m 6f (5)

1	41L-1L	**FOUNTAINS BLENHEIN (45)** A Honeyball 7 11-6	**G Sheehan**	121
2	P/541-1L	**IGNORE THE DOOR (26)** Harry Derham 6 11-6	**B J Powell**	112
3	3-	**ASSERTIVE WALK (405)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-0	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	–
4	3-23	**FIRM BUT FAIR (1) (F)** Harry Derham 5 11-0	**A Stevens(3)**	124
5	1-01	● **POTTERSVILLE (39) (T)** R Curtis 7 10-13	**J Brace(5)**	★136

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Pottersville, 9-2 Firm But Fair, 13-2 Assertive Walk, 7 Fountains Blenhein, 14 Ignore The Door.

12.59 MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE

£9,242 (4) 2m 4f (9)

1	3132-33	**GAME COLOURS (19)** Ben Clarke 8 12-0	**T McCain-Mitchell(5)**	118
2	17/L-684	**I SPY A DIVA (30)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 9 11-13	**Isabelle Ryder(7)**	118
3	34U23-U	**RING O ROSES (26)** Miss H Knight 8 11-12	**A Stevens(3)**	113
4	5221-17	**JASMINE D'AIRY (33)** Harry Derham 7 11-11	**Doubtful**	
5	L413-23	**LOOKING AS YOU ARE (26)** A Hales 7 11-10	**J Brace(5)**	★121
6	413-13P	**EASY LOVE (39)** A Honeyball 6 11-7	**G Sheehan**	111
7	11P-442	● **BOBBI WITH AN I (16)** J Tizzard 7 11-5	**B J Powell**	119
8	0P352/1	**LETS GO TO VEGAS (29)** A Ralph 8 11-5	**J Hogan**	120
9	45625-4	**SPRINGTIME LEGEND (28)** N Mulholland 6 10-12	**C O'Farrell**	114

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 HOOD: Nos. 3, 9.

SP FORECAST: 3 Game Colours, 4 Bobbi With An I, 5 Lets Go To Vegas, 7 Looking As You Are, 8 Easy Love, 12 I Spy A Diva, 14 Springtime Legend, 16 Ring O Roses.

1.34 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)

£9,242 (4) 2m 37yds (4)

1	21P2-1P	**ADMIRAL STEWART (48)** J Snowden 7 12-1	**G Sheehan**	–
2	22421-2	● **NORN IRON (21)** Harry Derham 8 11-11	**B J Powell**	★124
3	112-224	**BOND BROKER (45)** P Nicholls 7 11-9	**J Tidball(5)**	115
4	226P1L-	**KOUKEO (252)** J & A O'Neill 6 11-2	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Norn Iron, 9-4 Bond Broker, 5-2 Admiral Stewart, 7 Koukeo.

2.09 FITZDARES HANDICAP CHASE (GBB RACE)

£15,843 (3) 2m 4f 42yds (7)

1	16/0338	**TAX FOR MAX (40)** N & W Twiston-Davies 9 12-0	**Bryony Frost**	–
2	11P-PF6	**YES DAY (61)** J & A O'Neill 8 11-11	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	117
3	P201-12	**MISTER CESSNA (43)** F O'Brien 5 11-9	**J Hogan**	★129
4	131842	**SHANTOU LUCKY (11) (D)** James Owen 9 11-8	**Nathan Howie(3)**	126
5	P222/1-5	**TOOTHLESS (28) (D)** P Nicholls 8 11-6	**J Tidball(5)**	110
6	2242-14	**KALIF D'AIRY (28) (D)** G & J Moore 6 11-3	**C Quinn**	113
7	313-2L3	● **JOE COTTON (28)** J Scott 8 11-2	**J Tudor**	125

BLINKERS: Nos. 4, 6 VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6
CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Mister Cessna, 3 Shantou Lucky, 9-2 Joe Cotton, 13-2 Kalif D'airy, 7 Toothless, 8 Yes Day, 12 Tax For Max.

2.50 HANDICAP HURDLE (GBB RACE)

£52,030 (2) 2m 4f (12) ITV1

1	1L1-31L	**RAMBO T (26) (D)** O Murphy 9 12-0	**S Fenelon(5)**	140
2	U2119-2	**GUARD DUTY (33) (C&D)** E Lavelle 9 11-10	**G Sheehan**	143
3	4327-43	**ACT OF AUTHORITY (26) (D)** O Murphy 8 11-8	**T McCain-Mitchell(5)**	★146
4	171-FP9	**EAST INDIA EXPRESS (33) (D)** N Henderson 7 11-4	**F Gordon**	144
5	12121-3	**WELLINGTON ARCH (243) (D)** J & A O'Neill 7 11-4	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	142
6	241-141	**IDY WOOD (52) (D,F)** J Snowden 8 11-4	**Isabelle Ryder(7)**	140
7	1136-0F	**CASTLE CARROCK (20)** A King 7 11-3	**T Cannon**	140
8	42-1322	**STREAM OF STARS (26)** N & W Twiston-Davies 11 11-1	**J Turner(5)**	143
9	5122-12	● **HARTINGTON (40) (D)** J Tizzard 7 10-13	**B J Powell**	145
10	6443-17	**THANKSFORTHEHELP (56) (D)** D Pipe 9 10-11	**J Tudor**	144
11	1440-43	**LISTENTOYOURHEART (45)** D Skelton 7 10-8	**T Durrell**	143
12	PF00-04	**MINELLA MISSILE (40)** E Williams 8 10-7	**Isabel Williams**	139

TONGUE STRAP: No. 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 10, 12 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 4 Hartington, 9-2 Guard Duty, 8 Stream Of Stars, Rambo T, Idy Wood, 10 East India Express, Castle Carrock, Act Of Authority, 12 Others.

GUIDE: Guard Duty had four lengths to spare over runner-up **Hartington** when they clashed over C&D (sft) last January. Both have been lightly campaigned since that encounter and are again likely to be key players. However, this is a competitive race and there could be some value to be had in siding with **ACT OF AUTHORITY**. Effective at this trip and versatile regarding ground, the Olly Murphy-trained eight-year-old should be cherry-ripe after solid recent efforts at Newbury (3m, gd-sft) and Aintree (2m4f, sft). With Toby McCain-Mitchell claiming 5lb, a bold bid can be expected.

3.22 ATTHERACES.COM/MARKETMOVERS HANDICAP CHS

£5,281 (5) 3m 60yds (7)

1	1/L0L-11	● **FORTUNE DANCER (35) (D)** C Gordon 8 12-0	**F Gordon**	96
2	1/L31-LL	**ALL AUTHORIZED (17)** G & J Moore 7 11-11	**C Quinn**	101
3	434-3LL	**FLINTARA (35)** R Bandey 11 11-9	**B J Powell**	103
4	320LL3-	**LIMETREE BOY (268)** J & A O'Neill 10 11-8	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**	92
5	L431-23	**BRIDGET MARY (33) (D) (T)** R Curtis 8 11-6	**J Brace(5)**	101
6	34P-7L5	**FELTON BELLEVUE (18) (D)** B Case 11 11-4	**J Tudor**	96
7	L223-L6	**SPOTTY DOG (16) (D)** M Hawker 11 10-5	**C O'Farrell**	★106

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 6, 7 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5, 6
CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Fortune Dancer, 3 Bridget Mary, 11-2 All Authorized, 15-2 Flintara, 10 Limetree Boy, 12 Felton Bellevue, 16 Spotty Dog.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Gavin Sheehan 14% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** G & J Moore 8% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.09 Tax For Max (wind surgery), 2.50 Minella Missile (cheek pieces), 11.49 El Gavilan (cheek pieces, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.24 Fountains Blenhein. 12.59 Bobbi With An I(hcp hdl), Easy Love. 1.34 Norn Iron(hcp ch). 2.09 Kalif D'airy(hcp ch). 3.22 Bridget Mary(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Cumhacht** (11.49), **Pottersville** (12.24), **Bridget Mary** (3.22) 226 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** No Qualifiers.

HOOF PRINTS

OLD PARK STAR will be given the chance to further state his claims at two miles following Act Of Innocence's defeat at Newbury on Monday.

It was originally thought Nicky Henderson's unbeaten hurdler, who has impressed both at Kempton and at Cheltenham over timber so far, would head up in trip on Cheltenham Trials day, but that race is now possible for Act Of Innocence, with Old Park Star slated for Haydock's Sky Bet Supreme Trial Rossington Main Novices' Hurdle on January 17.

❐ NEW YEAR'S DAY cards at Windsor and Exeter hinge on inspections as the cold weather threatens to disrupt the opening day of 2026.

THE SCOUT NAMED UK'S TOP TIPSTER

FROM BACK PAGE

year in a head-to-head battle with The Guardian but showed the better stamina and consistency to pull clear in the closing stages.

Our top tipster started to make her way up the table thanks to Gracchus Du Balme's game effort at the Aintree Festival at odds of 22-1, which was followed by shrewd 25-1 Royal Ascot selection Time For Sandals.

However, the last few months made all the difference, as a flurry of winners at double-figure odds saw her land four monthly tipping prizes on the way to the title.

One lucky punter doubled up 66-1 shot Another Run and Silca Bay (22-1) when both outsiders scored on an evening card at Kempton.

Melissa, left, continued the relentless run by using her knowledge of all-weather racing to pick out the likes of Final Night (16-1), Poke The Bear (22-1), Gunlock (18-1), Aeolian (16-1) and Society Man (22-1).

In April, she was pipped to the post in the Racing Post Naps Table on the final day – the fifth time she has finished in the top three of that competition.

Melissa said: "After being caught in the closing stages of the Naps table on quite a few occasions, I wasn't sure my time would come!

"More than 9,600 selections later, I'm absolutely delighted to have got over the line.

"My main aim this year was to take my all-weather tipping up a notch and I am particularly pleased to have achieved that.

"All of this could not be possible without the support of my colleagues on the racing desk, who are a brilliant team to work with.

"I would also like to thank Greg Wood of The Guardian for his sportsmanship as the winning post neared, after setting such a strong pace throughout.

NATIONAL PRESS CHALLENGE
£2,000 TO THE WINNER

"Let's hope 2026 is as lucky!"

Racing editor Jason Heavey said: "Melissa is a class act and a brilliant tipster. She has really gone the extra furlong by putting in hours of form study and has shown amazing consistency. She thoroughly deserves this accolade."

SOUTHWELL SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

1.20 Shebara
1.55 Luminare
2.30 Pocklington
3.05 Tafah
3.44 Rosieisme Darling
4.15 Another Run
4.50 Blue Rc
5.20 Nemov

1.20 BETMGM.CO.UK FILLIES' NOVICE STKS 3YO

£8,100 (Class 4) 1m 13yds (7 declared)

1 (6)	362	**ARETI (22)** Oliver Cole 9-2	**B Loughnane**	86
2 (4)		**ARRIVERA** Tom Clover 9-2	**J Mitchell**	–
3 (3)		**BINT KILFRUSH (F)** J Tate 9-2	**H Crouch**	–
4 (1)	L3	**CHARMING DOLL (22)** I Mohammed 9-2	**M Ghiani**	75
5 (2)	7L	**COSPICUA (36)** J Tate 9-2	**R Hornby**	58
6 (8)	2	● **SHEBARA (80) (F)** A Balding 9-2	**O Murphy**	★87
7 (5)		**SONG OF THE STARS** J Ferguson 9-2	**J Peate**	–
8 (7)		**STAR OBSESSION** W Haggas 9-2	**Doubtful**	

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Shebara, 5-2 Areti, 9-2 Bint Kilfrush, 8 Charming Doll, 20 Song Of The Stars, 25 Arrivera, 50 Cospicua.

1.55 BETMGM HANDICAP 3YO

£10,468 (4) 7f 14yds (8)

1 (1)	321132	**GALILEO ISLAND (22) (D)** M Botti 9-9	**M Ghiani**	83
2 (4)	094324	**GOREY GOLD (22)** J Portman 9-8	**R Hornby**	85
3 (3)	012	**GENEROUS RASCAL (31) (F)** Oliver Cole 9-4	**H Crouch**	★89
4 (8)	610L31	**CHALE CHALO (29) (D)** T Dascombe 9-3	**B Loughnane**	84
5 (2)	71531	● **LUMINARE (16) (D)** W Haggas 9-0	**T Marquand**	83
6 (5)	433	**TACTICAL FORMATION (41)** R Fahey 8-13	**S Gray**	80
7 (6)	177	**SAHARA MAGIC (14) (C)** M Appleby 8-12	**H Davies**	80
8 (7)	3L3L	**UNITER (29)** A Balding 8-11	**C Hutchinson**	86

VISOR: Nos. 6, 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Luminare, 4 Galileo Island, Generous Rascal, 9-2 Chale Chalo, 7 Tactical Formation, 8 Gorey Gold, 12 Uniter, 16 Sahara Magic.

2.30 MIDNITE HANDICAP

£23,553 (2) 6f 16yds (13)

1 (2)	7/10341	**TEN POUNDS (92) (D)** Joey Ramsden 5 9-12	**H Crouch**	108
2 (4)	01283/7	**WILTSHIRE (270) (D)** W Haggas 6 9-11	**T Marquand**	93
3 (8)	9/6563L	**WILLEM TWEE (154) (D)** J Fanshawe 7 9-8	**G Wood**	109
4 (11)	103135	**SO DARN HOT (15) (D,F)** E Walker 4 9-7	**O Murphy**	108
5 (12)	50/6001	**CABURN (105) (D,F)** J Tate 4 9-6	**D E Hogan**	108
6 (10)	182660	**FIVETHOUSANDTOONE (103) (D)** T Easterby 8 9-5	**J Hart**	107
7 (6)	0/25322	● **POCKLINGTON (19) (D)** G Oldroyd 5 9-4	**P J McDonald**	110
8 (9)	1900L4	**WE NEVER STOP (36) (C&D,F)** K Ryan 5 9-3	**S Gray**	105
9 (13)	0/1L571	**LAKERS (62) (C&D)** K P De Foy 4 9-3	**R Scott**	104
10 (7)	613112	**COUL ANGEL (15) (C&D)** M Appleby 4 9-3	**B Loughnane**	100
11 (1)	22L23L	**PUREST TIME (15) (D)** I Williams 6 8-8	**E Greatrex**	★111
12 (5)	214141	**EMINENCY (14) (D)** S C Williams 6 8-8	**J Dace(5)**	108
13 (3)	1407/77	**ROCHELLE (328)** G Margarson 5 8-7	**J F Egan**	96

BLINKERS: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6
HOOD: No. 12.

SP FORECAST: 4 So Darn Hot, 9-2 Coul Angel, 6 Ten Pounds, 7 Pocklington, 8 Wiltshire, 10 We Never Stop, Caburn, 12 Eminency, Lakers, 16 Others.

3.05 HANDICAP (DIV 1) 3YO

£7,851 (6) 6f 16yds (9)

1 (5)	377	● **TAFAH (107)** A Carroll 9-9	**Jack Doughty**	63
2 (1)	00815	**THE TUNGUSKA EVENT (44) (D,F)** J & S Quinn 9-8	**J Hart**	66
3 (4)	756LL6	**TICKETTOTHESTARS (117) (T)** B Millman 9-8	**L Edmunds**	59
4 (6)	04L334	**MERESIDE PRINCESS (20)** D & N Barron 9-6	**R Hornby**	61
5 (3)	785546	**MAYNORA (134)** Craig Lidster 9-6	**P J McDonald**	62
6 (8)	LL0	**DARTREY (62)** R Beckett 9-5	**H Crouch**	60
7 (2)	053374	**MADEMOISELLE BELLE (13)** B Ellison 9-4	**H Davies**	63
8 (9)	L44	**AL NAJASHI (33)** Ollie Sangster 9-2	**N Currie**	★67
9 (7)	L5L	**ROGUE REBELLION (105)** James Owen 9-0	**L Morris**	63

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 The Tunguska Event, 4 Mereside Princess, 5 Maynora, 8 Dartrey, Tafah, 12 Mademoiselle Belle, Al Najashi, Rogue Rebellion, Tickettothestars.

3.44 HANDICAP (DIV 2) 3YO

£7,851 (6) 6f 16yds (9)

1 (7)	487123	**GREY HORIZON (6) (D)** S Dixon 9-9	**K O'Neill**	65
2 (2)	52074L	**AR DIDDY DUM DUM (12)** James Owen 9-9	**H Crouch**	57
3 (8)	8608	**INCLUSIVE (87)** J Fanshawe 9-7	**G Wood**	★68
4 (1)	LL7	**MISSILE KODE (65)** J & S Quinn 9-6	**J Hart**	59
5 (6)	755	**PETES DIAMOND (14)** Joey Ramsden 9-6	**J Peate**	62
6 (3)	07L21	● **ROSIEISME DARLING (14) (F)** Hayley Burton 9-4	**L Morris**	63
7 (9)	LL7241	**SAECULAMATION (21) (D)** G Margarson 9-3	**J F Egan**	61
8 (5)	L836L	**LADY LUCKY VEGAS (65)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-1	**B Loughnane**	64
9 (4)	LL73	**MAGNIFICENT MEL (21) (T)** B Millman 8-9	**H Davies**	61

VISOR: Nos. 1, 5.

SP FORECAST: 10-3 Grey Horizon, 7-2 Rosieisme Darling, 4 Saeculamation, 6 Magnificent Mel, Petes Diamond, 10 Missile Kode, 12 Inclusive, 20 Lady Lucky Vegas, 33 Ar Diddy Dum Dum.

4.15 HANDICAP (GBBPLUS RACE)

£15,702 (3) 1m 4f 14yds (8)

1 (1)	120/304	**CHEMISTRY (20)** I Furtado 5 10-0	**Elle-May Croot(5)**	92
2 (8)	609255	**ENEMY (20) (C,D)** I Williams 9 9-12	**B Loughnane**	97
3 (3)	1L5L1L	**PALAZZO BLU (34) (C&D,F)** M Botti 4 9-10	**Doubtful**	
4 (7)	552926	**ASSAIL (34) (D)** D M Simcock 6 9-5	**L Morris**	99
5 (2)	7320L3	**HUMBLE SPARK (13) (C&D) (T)** J Goldie 6 9-0	**Amie Waugh(3)**	100
6 (6)	361/513	● **ANOTHER RUN (29) (C,D) (T)** B Millman 6 8-12	**H Davies**	98
7 (5)	252595	**ROBUSTO (22) (D)** E J-Houghton 6 8-10	**Harry Vigors(7)**	★103
8 (4)	9524L6	**UMBRIA (91)** E Walker 5 8-10	**Jack Doughty**	95
9 (9)	610400	**SOMETHING (147) (D)** S C Williams 5 8-9	**J Dace(5)**	96

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Another Run, 11-2 Chemistry, 6 Enemy, 7 Assail, Humble Spark, 10 Robusto, 12 Umbria, 20 Something.

4.50 BETMGM HANDICAP

£23,553 (2) 1m 13yds (5)

1 (3)	0L0125	**SERENGETI (21)** D Cunha 4 9-12	**G Wood**	106
2 (5)	935213	**TWO TEMPTING (21) (D,F)** J Portman 7 9-7	**R Hornby**	108
3 (1)	622L2L	**BRAVAIS (21)** I Williams 6 9-5	**E Greatrex**	109
4 (4)	621122	● **BLUE RC (21) (D,F)** J Tate 4 9-1	**H Crouch**	110
5 (2)	345404	**POPMASTER (21)** E Walker 8 9-1	**T Marquand**	★111

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Blue Rc, 3 Two Tempting, 9-2 Serengeti, Popmaster, 12 Bravais.

5.20 JOIN THE MIDNITE MOVEMENT HANDICAP

£15,702 (4) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (8)	23072L	**ABERAMA GOLD (10) (C&D)** D O'Meara 9 9-9	**S Gray**	92
2 (11)	251042	**STANLEY SPENCER (42) (C&D,F)** J Tate 5 9-8	**H Crouch**	92
3 (3)	L50838	**SECRET GUEST (35) (D)** B Smart 6 9-8	**R Hornby**	93
4 (5)	311504	**BELL SHOT (14) (D)** M Appleby 7 9-8	**H Davies**	94
5 (9)	97L202	**PRINCE OF PILLO (36) (C&D)** R Fahey 6 9-7	**H Russell**	95
6 (1)	008L41	**BUCCABAY (29) (D)** E J-Houghton 6 9-5	**E Greatrex**	93
7 (2)	541991	**FILLY ONE (35) (C&D)** G Oldroyd 5 9-4	**P J McDonald**	★96
8 (7)	335446	**AMAZONIAN DREAM (131) (C&D) (T)** B Millman 7 9-2	**L Edmunds**	89
9 (6)	009172	**ORIENTAL PRINCE (23) (C&D,F) (T)** J Goldie 5 9-2	**Amie Waugh(3)**	93
10 (10)	L31209	**MR COOL (29) (D)** C Johnston 4 9-2	**J Hart**	92
11 (4)	0L/56L1	**GUNLOCK (22)** Martin Dunne 6 9-2	**D Keenan**	92
12 (12)	84412/7	● **NEMOV (28) (D)** S C Williams 5 9-1	**M Ghiani**	82

VISOR: Nos. 1, 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 11, 12 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Stanley Spencer, 5 Oriental Prince, 11-2 Buccabay, Filly One, 8 Gunlock, 10 Prince Of Pillo, Bell Shot, 12 Amazonian Dream, Secret Guest, Aberama Gold, 20 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Jason Hart 13% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** M Appleby 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.55 Uniter (visor), Tactical Formation (visor), 3.05 Mereside Princess (cheek pieces), Rogue Rebellion (wind surgery), Maynora (blinkers), 3.44 Petes Diamond (visor), 4.15 Palazzo Blu (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.30 Pocklington(hcp), So Darn Hot(hcp), We Never Stop(hcp). 3.05 The Tunguska Event(hcp). 3.44 Inclusive. 4.15 Enemy(hcp). 4.50 Blue Rc(hcp). 5.20 Prince Of Pillo, Secret Guest(hcp), Stanley Spencer(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Humble Spark** (4.15) & **Oriental Prince** (5.20) 282 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.30 **Rochelle** from Mme A Wattel to G Margarson, **Ten Pounds** from Harry Charlton to Joey Ramsden. 3.05 **Rogue Rebellion** from D O'Meara to James Owen, **Tafah** from D Loughnane to A Carroll.

NEWCASTLE SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

1.49 Shatin Venture
2.24 Polka
2.59 MACHETE
3.34 King's Crown
4.05 Concert Boy
4.35 Trais Fluors
5.05 Eco Power Boy
5.35 Yaahobby

1.49 MIDNITE APPRENTICE HANDICAP

£4,187 (Class 6) 5f (12 declared)

1 (6)	09709L	**LA ROCHETTE (13)** T Waggott 5 9-9	**Rhys Elliott(3)**	67
2 (8)	607861	**DIGITAL (13) (C&D)** R Carr 8 9-8	**W Fentiman**	68
3 (9)	954L05	**LAST OUTLAW (12) (D) (T)** Michael Keady 5 9-7	**K S McHugh(7)**	69
4 (5)	LLL89L	**PRINCE OF BEL LIR (12)** K R Burke 8 9-5	**J Nicholls(3)**	61
5 (2)	1L3345	**HENERY HAWK (13) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 7 9-3	**Shay Farmer(5)**	69
6 (4)	031L89	**INVINCIBLE ANNICE (16) (C&D)** T Waggott 4 9-3	**A Brookes**	55
7 (12)	356381	**LATIN FIVE (23) (C&D)** P Midgley 9 9-2	**A Jary**	66
8 (3)	14826L	**STROXX (16) (C&D)** L Bailey 9 9-2	**O McSweeney**	68
9 (11)	24860L	**WEE MARY (13)** J Goldie 4 9-0	**Lauren Young(5)**	54
10 (10)	280222	**LITTLE MI MI (13)** I Jardine 5 8-13	**M Tabti(3)**	68
11 (1)	5L7333	● **SHATIN VENTURE (13) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 5 8-10	**R Kavanagh(3)**	67
12 (7)	758457	**UNDER CURFEW (17) (D) (T)** A Carroll 10 8-9	**Myla Coppins(7)**	★70

BLINKERS: No. 8 VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 6 HOOD: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 10-3 Little Mi Mi, 9-2 Digital, 5 Latin Five, 11-2 Shatin Venture, 6 Last Outlaw, 15-2 Henery Hawk, 14 Wee Mary, 20 Under Curfew, 25 Others.

2.24 NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE)

£5,400 (4) 6f (9)

1 (1)	4	**MR DREAMSELLER (59)** D & N Barron 4 9-12	**T Eaves**	57
2 (6)	3	● **POLKA (93) (F)** J Camacho 4 9-9	**T Kiely-Marshall(5)**	78
3 (7)	4	**RILEY ROCKS (13) (F) (T)** D Cunha 3 9-0	**H Doyle**	60
4 (4)		**STROMNESS** N Tinkler 3 9-0	**F McManoman**	–
5 (2)	1	**THREE NON BLONDES (28) (D)** K R Burke 3 9-0	**P-L Jamin**	★80
6 (8)	7	**EVOLVE (13)** R Fahey 3 8-12	**B McHugh**	69
7 (9)	6L	**RAVEN'S VIEW (13)** M Dods 3 8-10	**M Winn**	62
8 (3)	5527	**ELIZABETTY (106)** B Ellison 3 8-7	**C Hardie**	75
9 (5)	06	**BATTENBURG BELLE (3)** R Menzies 3 8-5	**A Mullen**	68

HOOD: Nos. 2, 8.

SP FORECAST: 3 Polka, 7-2 Three Non Blondes, 4 Elizabetty, 7 Riley Rocks, 8 Evolve, 10 Stromness, Mr Dreamseller, 20 Raven's View, Battenburg Belle.

2.59 HANDICAP (GBBPLUS RACE)

£9,631 (3) 1m 2f 42yds (6)

1 (6)	5L311	**ANTRIM (27) (C&D,F)** K R Burke 4 9-9	**P-L Jamin**	92
2 (3)	L61561	**MIDNIGHT LION (12) (C&D)** J Goldie 6 9-8	**Lauren Young(5)**	93
3 (5)	05/6321	● **MACHETE (13) (C&D)** D O'Meara 7 9-6	**M Winn**	95
4 (4)	012131	**WITHOUT COMPROMISE (19) (C&D)** A Brittain 5 9-5	**C Hardie**	90
5 (2)	234453	**URBAN ROAD (14) (C&D)** A Brown 7 8-12	**B McHugh**	★96
6 (1)	3112/02	**INAPPROPRIATE (19) (D)** J O'Keeffe 5 8-12	**B Garritty**	88

VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 2 Antrim, 10-3 Machete, 4 Midnight Lion, Without Compromise, 8 Urban Road, 16 Inappropriate.

3.34 MIDNITE HANDICAP

£5,653 (4) 5f (12)

1 (8)	544344	**MESAAFI (14) (C) (T)** R Burdon 5 9-9	**P Bradley**	88
2 (4)	35/19	**CORONADO KING (24) (T)** A Watson 5 9-8	**H Doyle**	85
3 (3)	916/075	**PINEAPPLE ISLAND (3) (D)** S Spencer 7 9-7	**D Swift**	80
4 (9)	674149	**BONNIE'S BOY (19) (C&D)** R Fahey 4 9-5	**D Nolan**	87
5 (1)	653589	**JUAN LES PINS (117)** M Appleby 9 9-5	**A Rawlinson**	89
6 (7)	734612	● **KING'S CROWN (19) (C&D,F)** M Dods 6 9-4	**S B Kirrane**	86
7 (11)	985138	**DANDY MAGIC (13) (C,D)** J Goldie 4 9-3	**Lauren Young(5)**	77
8 (2)	573806	**LION'S HOUSE (19) (C,D)** Miss L Perratt 5 9-1	**Kaiya Fraser**	88
9 (10)	914L48	**DARK KESTREL (27) (C&D)** A Brittain 6 9-1	**C Hardie**	86
10 (6)	L68617	**BLUE LAKOTA (44) (C&D)** K Ryan 4 9-0	**T Eaves**	88
11 (5)	054481	**HOVER ON THE WIND (27) (C&D)** P Midgley 6 9-0	**B McHugh**	88
12 (12)	L24394	**DARLO PRIDE (27) (C&D)** M Dods 6 8-11	**Rhys Elliott(5)**	★90

BLINKERS: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 9, 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 12.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 King's Crown, 9-2 Mesaafi, 11-2 Hover On The Wind, 10 Dandy Magic, Bonnie's Boy, 12 Coronado King, Juan Les Pins, Dark Kestrel, Lion's House, Blue Lakota, 14 Others.

4.05 HANDICAP

£5,653 (4) 1m 5yds (10)

1 (10)	631103	**CALLIANASSA (12) (C&D)** B Ellison 5 9-11	**B Robinson**	87
2 (2)	6077L8	**QAZAQ (12) (D)** I Jardine 5 9-8	**M Tabti(5)**	87
3 (4)	3L6423	**DONNA NOOK (20)** D O'Meara 4 9-5	**M Winn**	86
4 (1)	5L7535	**EVE'S BOY (41)** M Dods 4 9-4	**S B Kirrane**	87
5 (6)	711541	**THE GREEN MAN (19) (C)** P Kirby 7 9-1	**A Rawlinson**	89
6 (5)	888122	**BAJAN BANDIT (12) (C,D)** P Morris 6 9-1	**P Bradley**	87
7 (8)	932952	**FLYING FLETCHER (12) (C,F)** R Fahey 5 9-1	**W Fentiman(5)**	90
8 (7)	514066	**NOVAK (13) (C)** I Jardine 7 9-1	**A Mullen**	84
9 (3)	231221	● **CONCERT BOY (23) (C&D)** K Scott 6 8-6	**G Fairley**	★91
10 (9)	242133	**FRANCESI (3) (C&D) (T)** A Carroll 7 8-5	**Myla Coppins(7)**	89

BLINKERS: No. 9 VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Concert Boy, 9-2 Flying Fletcher, 5 The Green Man, Bajan Bandit, 7 Francesi, 10 Callianassa, 12 Eve's Boy, 14 Donna Nook, 16 Others.

4.35 BETMGM HANDICAP

£4,292 (6) 1m 5yds (11)

1 (2)	488438	**VOLENTI (13) (C&D)** B Haslam 7 9-9	**C Hardie**	68
2 (5)	502423	**SHERLOCK (13)** K Ryan 4 9-9	**T Eaves**	63
3 (1)	424211	**CORAMENTO (56) (C&D)** D Thompson 5 9-9	**C Rodriguez**	67
4 (8)	802608	**MINERS GAMBLE (12)** B Ellison 5 9-9	**B Robinson**	★71
5 (12)	994485	**SPRINGBOK (17)** R Fahey 4 9-8	**J Garritty**	67
6 (4)	61L430	**BELIEVE IN LIES (20)** D & N Barron 5 9-8	**D Nolan**	69
7 (10)	935522	**NO NAY NEVERMIND (13)** I Jardine 4 9-6	**M Tabti(5)**	65
8 (11)	670/5LL	**SHIFTER (13) (D)** W Storey 7 9-5	**Paula Muir(3)**	64
9 (6)	8L0L83	**PALLAS LORD (12) (C&D)** D Whillans 8 9-5	**S B Kirrane**	69
10 (7)	8L5732	● **TRAIS FLUORS (16) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 12 9-5	**A Jary(3)**	70
11 (9)	453336	**HARSWELL DUKE (19) (D)** L Bailey 8 9-5	**Doubtful**	
12 (3)	8LL486	**WAIT FOR IT (23)** L Bailey 4 9-4	**O McSweeney**	56

VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 9, 12 CHEEK: No. 2 HOOD: Nos. 8, 12.

SP FORECAST: 3 Coramento, 4 Sherlock, 5 No Nay Nevermind, 11-2 Trais Fluors, 8 Pallas Lord, 10 Volenti, Springbok, 14 Miners Gamble, 20 Others.

5.05 HANDICAP (DIV 1)

£4,187 (6) 6f (12)

1 (10)	268003	**MASTER DANDY (12) (C&D,F) (T)** Michael Keady 6 9-9	**K S McHugh(7)**	64
2 (5)	2LL207	**SOVEREIGN CLASS (13)** G Tuer 4 9-8	**O Stammers**	65
3 (11)	3/35735	**AUNTIE JO (248)** D O'Meara 4 9-8	**M Winn**	62
4 (9)	0765/65	● **ECO POWER BOY (16)** S Spencer 5 9-6	**G Sanna(5)**	60
5 (3)	1601L8	**GREEN VALENTINE (16) (C&D)** A Brown 5 9-6	**B McHugh**	63
6 (4)	05L241	**DOON THE GLEN (287) (C&D)** J Goldie 6 9-4	**Lauren Young(5)**	63
7 (1)	0995L2	**ATHOLLBLAIR BOY (23) (C&D)** N Tinkler 13 9-3	**F McManoman**	62
8 (12)	86L232	**SPARTAN FIGHTER (16) (C&D)** A Brittain 9 9-0	**C Hardie**	★66
9 (8)	4L0977	**BRAVE BOB (58)** J Camacho 4 9-0	**T Eaves**	50
10 (2)	0274L6	**YELLOW LEMONS (12)** K Scott 5 9-0	**G Fairley**	62
11 (6)	737409	**SHE'SASHAMBLES (23) (D)** Phillip Makin 5 9-0	**P Bradley**	61
12 (7)	L48790	**BERNIE THE BEAR (16) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 6 9-0	**Kaiya Fraser**	46

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 9, 10, 11, 12.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Master Dandy, 10-3 Athollblair Boy, 4 Doon The Glen, 8 Spartan Fighter, 10 Sovereign Class, Eco Power Boy, 12 Auntie Jo, 20 Yellow Lemons, 25 Others.

5.35 HANDICAP (DIV 2)

£4,187 (6) 6f (11)

1 (11)	541360	**DILIGENT HENRY (28)** Jessica Macey 5 9-9	**H Doyle**	★66
2 (3)	LLL969	**CLASSY CLARETS (27)** I Jardine 5 9-9	**A Mullen**	58
3 (8)	768357	**BENEFICIARY (23) (C&D)** L Bailey 7 9-8	**D Nolan**	56
4 (6)	430766	**LAURENS DREAM (16) (C&D)** M & D Easterby 4 9-7	**B Garritty**	65
5 (2)	L60704	**PENNY MOUNTAIN (12)** Gary Rutherford 5 9-6	**Kaiya Fraser**	62
6 (5)	640106	**KORROOR (23) (C&D)** J Camacho 5 9-4	**T Kiely-Marshall(5)**	62
7 (7)	450842	**FIRCOMBE HALL (12) (C&D,F)** P Kirby 8 9-2	**Rhys Elliott(5)**	63
8 (1)	L4LL0	**WEE NAN (16)** A Brown 4 9-1	**Lauren Young(5)**	59
9 (10)	08L988	**NAZCA (23) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 7 9-0	**P Bradley**	55
10 (9)	73L594	● **YAAHOBBY (16) (C,D)** A Brittain 7 9-0	**C Hardie**	63
11 (4)	L8L8LL	**AURORA'S DOUBLESIX (112)** B Rothwell 4 9-0	**F McManoman**	48

BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: Nos. 1, 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 10
CHEEK PIECES: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Fircombe Hall, 10-3 Penny Mountain, 5 Yaahobby, 6 Laurens Dream, 7 Korroor, 10 Diligent Henry, 12 Beneficiary, 14 Classy Clarets, 50 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Tom Eaves 9% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** R Fahey 11% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.49 Prince Of Bel Lir (visor), Last Outlaw (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 4.05 Eve's Boy (cheek pieces), 4.35 Shifter (hood). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.49 Little Mi Mi(hcp), Shatin Venture(hcp). 2.24 Elizabetty. 3.34 Dandy Magic(hcp), Mesaafi(hcp). 4.05 Francesi(hcp). 4.35 Sherlock(hcp). **DRAW:** High numbers have a slight advantage over 5f. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Coronado King** (3.34) 284 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.35 **Aurora's Doublesix** from N Mechie to B Rothwell.

2026 PREDICTIONS

What will the New Year bring for the world of sport? Our reporters set the scene

CRUNCH TIME
2026 promises to be a huge year for golfer Fleetwood and England head coach Tuchel

ANDY DUNN

What sporting event am I most looking forward to in 2026?

It creeps up unannounced, with little fanfare and with little British optimism, but the Winter Olympics – held this year in Milan and Cortina D'Ampezzo – never fails to enthral. And this time around, Team GB has a serious chance of winning a couple of medals. Look out for teenage snowboarder Mia Brookes.

Can England's men really win the World Cup this time?

Yes, they can. But no, they won't. Thomas Tuchel has a very good squad at his disposal but it will still be found wanting in certain areas. The reliance on Harry Kane is a cause for concern and, even though they did not concede a goal in qualification, the defensive unit will be exposed by blue-chip opposition.

Which individual could make 2026 the best year of their career?

On his home track, The Open will be confirmation that Tommy Fleetwood has the potential to be the best golfer in the world. But a victory at Royal Birkdale might not be his first Major win. With his American jinx well and truly broken, the affable Southport golfer is a very good bet for the Masters, too.

What do I want to see more of in sport in 2026?

Free-to-air action. The World Cup is great for many reasons but one of the main ones is that everyone can watch it without having to fork out for subscription television. One day, sports executives are going to wake up to the idea that it is not always the best option to sell your soul to the highest TV bidder.

What do I want to see less of in sport in 2026?

Simple. Cheating. It has always been there in sport but it has never been more prevalent. And in football, in particular, it has become a default mode. Goalkeepers pretending to be injured, players collapsing at the brush of a hand, squealing, screaming, diving. If VAR is useful for one thing, it should be to punish cheats.

JEREMY CROSS

What sporting event am I most looking forward to in 2026?

There's one choice above the rest, and it's the greatest show on turf in the shape of the World Cup in North America. How it plays out should be fascinating, considering the challenges which include searing temperatures, late kick-offs, time zones, ticket pricing and vast distances of travel. Not to mention the influence of a certain Donald Trump. But organisers FIFA have made their bed, and will now have to lie in it.

But can England's men really win it this time?

History suggests England will not triumph, considering the Three Lions have won the ultimate prize just once, and this was almost 60 years ago. While more recent times have exposed England as a team which gets found out in the latter stages, like they did in 2018 and then again in 2022.

Thomas Tuchel will take a talented squad to North America, but one far too reliant on Harry Kane's goals. Reaching the quarter-finals might be the team's limit.

Which individual could make 2026 the best year of their career?

Tommy Fleetwood had a stellar 2025, winning his first PGA Tour event, the FedEx Cup and leading Europe to Ryder Cup glory. He is now one of the best golfers in the world, but also one still waiting to win a Major. He's gone close in the past but, with his new-found confidence, what better place to land his first one considering the Open is at Royal Birkdale, which is almost on Fleetwood's doorstep.

What do I want to see more of in sport in 2026?

Top-level sportspeople showing more class, respect and distinction in their chosen sports, setting a better example to future generations. Gamesmanship is sometimes needed to gain that edge, but some individuals take things too far, while footballers blatantly cheating to con officials should become a red-card offence. The behaviour of famous sportspeople when in the spotlight needs to improve.

What do I want to see less of in sport in 2026?

The use of VAR in football. Since its introduction to the Premier League in 2019, all VAR has done is bring major confusion and delay to top-flight games. These days, you almost have to be some kind of footballing Einstein to understand how it works, let alone comprehend how those operating it interpret certain scenarios. Hanging around waiting to discover the outcome of a call on a goal or offside has sucked all the spontaneity and passion out of the beautiful game.

JOHN CROSS

What sporting event am I most looking forward to in 2026?

The World Cup. It is the pinnacle and has the potential to unite the whole nation.

It promises to be huge, expanded to 48 nations and you can be sure FIFA will want to put on the most lavish, extravagant and crazy show we have ever seen. I cannot wait.

But can England's men really win it this time?

Yes. Definitely. They have a top manager in Thomas Tuchel, a great squad and are in the top four 'seeds' with a route to glory.

But the bigger question is, will they? I'm sorry, but I don't think so. Spain, Argentina and France are better. They have a chance but I fancy Spain.

Which individual could make 2026 the best year of their career?

Harry Kane. If England's Captain Marvel goes to the US in good form, in peak fitness and the team clicks... well, he could win the Golden Boot (again) and lead England to glory. I respect Kane (left) so much and would love to see him lift the trophy and win the Ballon d'Or.

What do I want to see more of in sport in 2026?

More showdowns between Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. I love tennis. We've had a few classic encounters already. And I hope we have got a few more years of one of sport's greatest rivalries, never mind just tennis. They are so close, so competitive and they serve up classics.

What do I want to see less of in sport in 2026?

Set-pieces. I want to see football go back to flair. Don't misunderstand me. If you are good at set-pieces, why wouldn't you use them? But football is always cyclical. Big players. Technical players. Tiki-taka. We go through phases. I want to see more skill, flair and magical moments in the game I love.

NEIL McLEMAN

What sporting event am I most looking forward to in 2026?

The Masters. The first Major of the season is always special. This year Rory McIlroy will defend the title while the rest of the European Ryder Cup team can take the confidence of the Bethpage Black victory to Augusta National in April. But Open champion and world No.1 Scottie Scheffler will be the favourite.

Can England's men really win the World Cup this time?

Yes, but they won't. Thomas Tuchel's side have an excellent record in qualifying but they haven't played a good team yet. Brazil and Argentina have won the previous two World Cups in North America – in 1970, 1986 and 1994 – and the holders are my favourites again.

Which individual could make 2026 the best year of their career?

Bob MacIntyre. The Scotsman has won the PGA Tour and finished second at the US Open last season before another top 10 at The Open. A Major win for the Ryder Cup star is now the next step. And left-handers have a good record at the Masters.

What do I want to see more of in sport in 2026?

Feelgood and redemption stories – and raw drama. In 2025, there was Rory McIlroy, JJ Spaun and Tommy Fleetwood finally winning big golf titles, Carlos Alcaraz saving three match points before claiming the French Open crown, and Jalen Hurts leading the Eagles to the Superbowl. More of the same please.

What do I want to see less of in sport in 2026?

Player burnout, injuries and early retirements. More events and more money leads to more physical demands on the superstars that the public pay to see. There is a 48-team World Cup in the searing heat of North America a year after the FIFA Club World Cup and a gruelling domestic season. Not everyone will last the pace and big names will be missing and careers risk ending early.

AND WHO TO WATCH

while we've also taken a look at those stars who are set to have a big 12 months

AMERICAN DREAM

Defenders beware! Yamal is heading to the summer's World Cup with Spain

10 SPORTS STARS TO WATCH IN 2026

LAMINE YAMAL
(FOOTBALL)

Since making his Barcelona debut at the age of 15 in 2023, Yamal has continued to rewrite the record books for both club and country, and will head into this summer's World Cup as a veteran of the big occasion. Spain will be heavily reliant on the now 18-year-old's audacious talent in North America.

MIA BROOKES
(SNOWBOARD)

Brookes (below) became the youngest-ever snowboard world champion at the age of 16 in 2023 and has continued to rack up podium finishes. She will head to the Winter Olympics in February as arguably Great Britain's strongest bet for a medal in both the women's slopestyle and Big Air disciplines.

GEORGE DELANEY
(RUGBY LEAGUE)

His St Helens team-mate Harry Robertson stole the show last season but 21-year-old Delaney delivered performances beyond his years in a rugged front row. Under the guidance of new head coach Paul Rowley, Delaney's influence on a resurgent Saints squad is only going to continue to grow.

WU YIZE
(SNOOKER)

Wu is China's latest great hope to follow in the wake of world champion Zhao Xintong. The 22-year-old proved in his first ranking title win, at the International Championship in Nanjing in November, that he has the right blend of flair and tactical ability to make a big impression in the coming year.

BEAU GREAVES
(DARTS)

Having dominated the women's scene for a number of years, the Doncaster 21-year-old (below) is ready to pit her wits on the PDC Tour having earned a two-year tour card in 2025. Victory over Luke Littler en route to this year's world youth final is testament to Greaves' talent and she is sure to ruffle plenty of feathers.

JOAO FONSECA
(TENNIS)

The Brazilian star has been making waves since winning the US Open boys' title in 2023. Backed by a band of fanatical fans, Fonseca (below right) landed his first two ATP Tour titles in 2025, and backed by a booming forehand and no lack of self-confidence, he is expected to continue his surge up the world rankings.

DAVINA PERRIN
(CRICKET)

Perrin (below) hit the headlines with a stunning 42-ball century in The Hundred semi-final in August, the best of a series of high-profile innings for the Northern Superchargers. Her award-winning rise is almost certain to culminate in the 19-year-old being handed her full England debut sometime in 2026.

RASMUS NEERGAARD-PETERSEN
(GOLF)

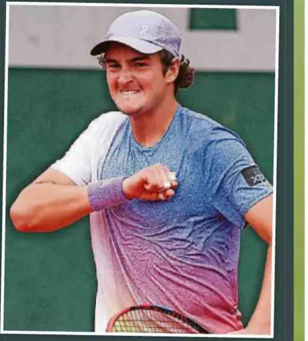
The 26-year-old Dane has looked unflappable on his rise through the ranks. He swiftly earned places on both major tours and landed four PGA top-fives, before cementing his status as a potential major contender in 2026 by winning his first DP World Tour title at the Australian Open earlier this month.

OLIVER BEARMAN
(FORMULA ONE)

The 20-year-old may not have made quite as many headlines as some of his British compatriots in 2025, but Bearman made steady progress with Haas and is highly rated. Another good season is likely to put him in pole position to potentially replace Lewis Hamilton at Ferrari at the end of 2026.

TOBY MOORE
(RACING)

Moore has both the family connections and the talent to make it big. He had three winners from 31 rides after starting late in 2025 and, despite being curtailed by an injury that will keep him out until the spring, Moore is expected to be challenging for the apprentice title next year.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SPORT IN 2025?

1 In January, Luke Littler claimed the 2025 PDC World Darts Championship title with victory over which former winner at Alexandra Palace?

2 How many points did England take during the Women's Ashes series defeat in Australia?

3 Who beat the Kansas City Chiefs to win Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans?

4 Name the 33-1 winner of the 2025 Randox Grand National at Aintree, trained by Willie Mullins and ridden by his son, amateur jockey Patrick.

5 Rory McIlroy finally claimed a Masters green jacket – becoming only the sixth male golfer to complete the career grand slam – with a play-off victory over which European Ryder Cup team-mate at Augusta?

6 Who was crowned China's first world snooker champion after defeating veteran Mark Williams in the final at The Crucible in Sheffield?

7 Which team did Arsenal defeat to win the 2025 Women's Champions League final?

8 Who captained the British and Irish Lions for the victorious summer tour of Australia?

9 Who was beaten 6-0 6-0 by Iga Swiatek in the Women's singles final at Wimbledon?

10 Name the winner of the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

11 Who came off the bench to score the decisive spot-kick as England beat world champions Spain on penalties in the Women's Euro 2025 final?

12 In July, Oleksandr Usyk stopped which British fighter at Wembley to become a two-time undisputed heavyweight champion?

13 Who claimed silver in the women's 800 metres at the World Athletics Championships, ahead of British team-mate and training partner Keely Hodgkinson?

14 Also in Tokyo, Katarina Johnson-Thompson shared heptathlon bronze with which American athlete after both finished level on 6,581 points?

15 Who finished with the most individual points as Europe held off a fightback by the United States in the singles to win the Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black in New York?

16 In September, England beat which nation to win the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup final on home soil?

17 Defending champions Wigan lost to which side in the Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford?

18 Who was named player of the tournament as co-hosts India claimed a first Women's Cricket World Cup title with victory over South Africa?

19 In November, which two players scored long-range goals in stoppage time to secure Scotland's place at the men's World Cup finals for the first time since 1998 with a dramatic 4-2 win over Denmark at Hampden Park?

20 England batter Joe Root finished unbeaten on how many runs after he finally scored a Test century in Australia during the first innings of the second Ashes Test at the Gabba?

Answers: 1: Michael van Gerwen 2: Zero 3: Philadelphia Eagles 4: Nick Rockett 5: Justin Rose 6: Zhao Xintong 7: Barcelona 8: Maro Itoje 9: Amanda Anisimova 10: Lando Norris 11: Chloe Kelly 12: Daniel Dubois 13: Georgia Hunter Bell 14: Taliyah Brooks 15: Tommy Fleetwood 16: Canada 17: Hull KR 18: Deepti Sharma 19: Kieran Tierney and Kenny McLean 20: 138

SPORT IN BRIEF

African Cup of Nations
Group E

EQ GUINEA (0) 1 — **ALGERIA (3) 3**
Nsue 50 — Belaid 19, Chaibi 25, Maza 32

SUDAN (0) 0 — **BURKINA FASO (1) 2**
L Traore 16, Kouassi 85

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Burkina Faso	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Sudan	3	1	0	2	1	5	3
Equatorial Guinea	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

Group F

GABON (2) 2 — **IVORY COAST (1) 3**
Kanga 11, Bouanga 21 — Krasso 44, Guessand 84, Toure 90

MOZAMBIQUE (1) 1 — **CAMEROON (1) 2**
Catamo 23 — Nene 28 (og), Kofane 55

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Cameroon	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Mozambique	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Gabon	3	0	0	3	4	7	0

BASKETBALL

NBA: Memphis 136 Philadelphia 139 (OT), Utah 119 Boston 129, LA Lakers 106 Detroit 128, LA Clippers 131 Sacramento 90.

ICEHOCKEY

ELITE LEAGUE: Fife Flyers 4 Dundee Stars 5 (SO), Glasgow Clan 1 Belfast Giants 2, Nottingham Panthers 4 Coventry Blaze 5.
NHL: Pittsburgh 5 Carolina 1, Toronto 4 New Jersey 0, Florida 2 Montreal 3 (OT), Chicago 2 New York 3 (SO), Vancouver 3 Philadelphia 6.

TODAY'S DIARY

(3pm unless stated)

Premier League

Brentford v Tottenham (8pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Premier League)
Crystal Palace v Fulham (5.30)
(Live on Sky Sports Premier League)
Liverpool v Leeds (5.30)
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)
Sunderland v Man City (8pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

Sky Bet Championship

Blackburn v Wrexham (12.30)
(Live on Sky Sports Football)
Bristol City v Portsmouth
Charlton v Coventry
Derby v Middlesbrough
Hull v Stoke
Ipswich v Oxford Utd
Preston v Sheffield Wednesday
QPR v Norwich
Sheffield Utd v Leicester (5.30)
Southampton v Millwall
Swansea v West Brom
Watford v Birmingham

Sky Bet League One

Doncaster v Bolton
Exeter v Luton
Leyton Orient v AFC Wimbledon
Lincoln City v Huddersfield
Mansfield v Bradford
Northampton v Stockport Co
Port Vale v Blackpool
Reading v Burton
Rotherham v Peterborough
Stevenage v Plymouth
Wigan v Barnsley
Wycombe v Cardiff
(Live on Sky Sports Football)

Sky Bet League Two

Barnet v Crawley
Barrow v Salford City
Bromley v Newport Co
Cambridge Utd v Walsall
Colchester v Milton Keynes Dons
Crewe v Cheltenham
Fleetwood v Grimsby
Harrogate Tn v Tranmere
Notts County v Accrington
Oldham v Chesterfield
Shrewsbury v Bristol Rovers
Swindon v Gillingham

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Cardiff v Guildford, Coventry v Nottingham, Manchester v Sheffield.

RUGBY UNION

United Rugby Ch'ship (5.30): Dragons v Scarlets, Ospreys v Cardiff Rugby.

VETERAN IS A FAN OF NEW ALLY PALLY HERO

Anderson won't be Hoodwinked

TODAY'S Q-F SCHEDULE

AFTERNOON SESSION (12:30PM)
Ryan Searle v Jonny Clayton
Gary Anderson v Justin Hood

EVENING SESSION (7PM)
Luke Littler v Krzysztof Ratajski
Luke Humphries v Gian van Veen

JUST ME AND YOU Anderson (right) will not underestimate Hood (left)

BY **RICHARD LEWIS**

WHEN Gary Anderson steps onto the Ally Pally oche, he admits something inside him changes.

"I cannot tell you what it is," Anderson said. "I get up on that stage, and it is the biggest tournament in the world.

"You spend all year trying to get here, and look at what darts has become. There's a million pound first prize."

Anderson, 55, is just three wins away from banking the biggest cheque the sport has known, but not for one moment, one single throw at double top, would he be complacent that he can go all the way.

The reason why is the player he faces at the Alexandra Palace in this afternoon's quarter-final.

The Flying Scotsman is a double world champion, three-times runner-up and one of the greatest names in the history of the sport.

His clash with Justin Hood is an example of the sport's remarkable journey to where it now stands.

Hood, 32, is in his first world championship and reached the last eight with a stunning 4-0 demolition of Josh Rock, which included hitting a record 11 consecutive doubles.

"He is fantastic. Everyone goes, 'Who's Justin Hood?'," Anderson said. "Trust me, the boy is a cracking, cracking darts player. Lovely, lovely lad, loves everything. He does not have a bad word to say about anything and he just enjoys life.

"Justin has played county, he has been on the go for a long time. He is always smiling, he is up there and you are going to see a lot of Justin over the next few years. Nowadays, getting past this first round with the talent coming through...when the draw comes, you look at it and say, 'Wish I had that side of the draw'.

> Trust me, the boy is a cracking, cracking darts player. And he's a lovely lad, too

"The standard of players now is through the roof, it is phenomenal and to get into the last eight, I am quite happy.

"I have seen old photos of me with young kids and they say, 'Who is that?' and they now say, 'That is him'. It is great.

"It just shows you that you meet these young kids over the years, they have taken up darts and they have carried it on.

"Now they are some of the best players in the world, so that is good."

Winning the tournament on your debut is not unheard of, as Rob Cross proved when he lifted the crown in 2018. Whatever happens, Hood is determined this is only the start, having reached his 2025 peak at this tournament. And why has he played so well now and not the rest of last year?

"Laziness," he replied. "I have been very lazy this year, half an hour of practice a day, turn up for the pro tours and play.

"The last six weeks I have put a lot of time in on the boards, four or five hours a day, and it is paying off. This year, I am going to be doing it every day – watch out."

FIRED UP Littler during his fine victory over Cross

LUKE DEFENDS RIVAL LUKE

BY **RICHARD LEWIS**

LUKE HUMPHRIES has called on the Ally Pally crowd to give Luke Littler a break.

Littler reacted after he suffered hostility as he reached the World Championship quarter-finals in his win over Rob Cross and said he expects the "worst" when he meets Krzysztof Ratajski in the first match of tonight's session. But Humphries, who faces Gian van Veen in the final game of the night, hopes there is no repeat.

Humphries said: "He can say what he wants. He played an amazing game. The crowd, I've experienced it myself. The crowd sometimes are not on your side.

"He's a young lad. He's 18 years old. Sometimes it happens. You lose your head a little bit.

"I don't think people should hold it against him. It's just one of those things. He's going to have the crowd against him, maybe. But he doesn't deserve it.

"When you are a top player, I experienced it when I beat Luke in that final in 2024. I had it for six to nine months. It was really, really bad. I don't really think I've done anything wrong. But when you're at the top, everyone just wants to see you then fall again."

CRICKET

FORMER Australia batter Damien Martyn has been placed in an induced coma after contracting meningitis.

Cricket Australia confirmed that the 54-year-old, who played 67 Test matches from 1992-2006 and won two World Cups, became unwell on Boxing Day.

He is being treated in a Brisbane hospital.

Martyn played as an overseas player for Yorkshire in 2003.

WORLD OF SPORT

Pumas lock is key for Bulls

RUGBY UNION

NEWCASTLE have signed Argentina lock forward Franco Molina on a two-year deal.

The 28-year-old, who has previous Gallagher Prem experience at Exeter, will play the 2026 Super Rugby season for Australian side Western Force before linking up with Newcastle in the summer.

MOLINA

"I'm incredibly honoured to be joining Newcastle Red Bulls - a club that has such a rich affinity with Argentinian players," 20-times capped Molina declared. "After my conversation with managing director Jonny Petrie and sporting general manager Neil McIlroy, it is obvious that this is an exciting time to be involved with the club, and I cannot wait."

McIlroy said Molina had valuable international experience after playing in "many big games" for Los Pumas. He added: "His set-piece ability will stand us in good stead as we look to put this club on a clear upward trajectory."

Newcastle are bottom of the Prem after losing all eight league matches.

FOOTBALL

ROBERTO CARLOS is on the road to recovery after heart surgery.

The former Real Madrid and Brazil star, 52, had been admitted to hospital in his home country. An MRI scan revealed his heart was not functioning properly, and he underwent surgery to fit a catheter.

Carlos told Spanish newspaper AS he was "fine", but said he remained under close observation.

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10 to tackle

1. Who, in November, 2025, was named director of racing of Ineos Grenadiers cycling team?
2. **Which three Bayern Munich men, in the starting line-up in the 2025-2026 Champions League league phase defeat at Arsenal, were youth players with the Gunners?**
3. Of which rugby union club is Alan Paver joint-head coach?
4. **For which national team did fast bowler Jeff Thomson play?**
5. Who was the last English golfer to win the Open Championship?
6. **Which flag used in motor racing is traditionally shown to the winner and other finishers?**
7. On which horse did Ruby Walsh win the 2000 Grand National?
8. **Which martial art's name has been translated as 'the way to harmonise with the energy of the universe'?**
9. What number is between the 5 and the 9 on a dartboard?
10. **Which female tennis player lost three successive French Open finals in the 1980s?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Geraint Thomas. 2 Serge Gnabry, Harry Kane and Michael Olise. 3 Cornish Pirates. 4 Australia. 5 Nick Faldo. 6 Chequered flag. 7 Papillon. 8 Aikido. 9 12. 10 Martina Navratilova.

FARKE FEARS REDS' DEAD-BALL THREAT

BY **ISAAC JOHNSON**

DANIEL FARKE says Leeds must be aware of Liverpool's dead-ball ability this evening, despite the defending champions sacking their set-piece coach amid their poor record.

Liverpool have scored just three Premier League goals from set-pieces this season. At the other end, heading into the midweek batch of fixtures, no other team had conceded more from dead balls than their 12.

Leeds have 12 goals from set-pieces – 10 with penalties taken out.

On Tuesday, the Reds sacked Aaron Briggs, their set-piece specialist. Leeds boss Farke (left), though, insists this will have little bearing on how tonight's match will play out.

He said: "I wouldn't label it an area we have had a strong look at specially for this game. It's an area we are always focused. We have big strength in this with the work Edmund (Riemer, Leeds' assistant coach who leads set-piece training) and the guys are doing.

"Normally, with the players they have – Virgil van Dijk, Ibrahima Konate, and so on – they are unbelievably strong in set-pieces.

"I'm still very respectful of the threat they have in both boxes."

TO ELLAND BACK

Slot wants no repeat of Yorkshire roller coaster

NO MO DRAMA Liverpool boss Arne Slot and (left) Mo Salah, who is now at the AFCON

LIVERPOOL v LEEDS

Premier League: KO 5.30pm, Sky Sports

BY **IAN DOYLE**

WITHOUT even kicking a ball, Mo Salah ensured he was the main topic of conversation when Liverpool last faced Leeds.

Arne Slot, though, was just as concerned about matters that preceded the Egyptian's explosive post-match outburst.

Having restored their lead after throwing away a two-goal advantage, the perennial failure to defend set-pieces saw the Reds leak an injury-time equaliser in a 3-3 draw.

It also set in motion a series of events that led to Salah's Anfield future being called into question.

While dead-ball situations remain a concern – and cost set-piece coach Aaron Briggs his job this week – Liverpool have fashioned a six-game unbeaten domestic run since.

Leeds have also been undefeated since the Reds' visit, with the teams bringing in the New Year by meeting at Anfield in the reverse fixture.

Could, then, Slot cope with a repeat of that Elland Road roller coaster?

"Yes I could, but I don't prefer to cope with another day like that," said the Kop boss.

"It is part of football, we have to cope with the highs and lows. We have to accept that."

Liverpool, though, have become a different animal since that match.

Florian Wirtz is revelling on the left, Curtis Jones as one of two defensive midfielders and Jeremie Frimpong has returned to offer pace down the right flank with assists in back-to-back games.

Jones is poised to start a fifth consecutive Premier League game for the first time under Slot and the Dutchman added: "One of the main qualities he has is that he always wants to have the ball, no matter the situation, 99 times out of 100. That is very positive.

"The most positive thing for him is that he is able to stay fit for four or five games in a row now.

"If you look at the bench (against Wolves), there are no midfielders that have played more than 10 Premier League minutes so far.

"That's why I'm so pleased with our current results. If we had dropped points, people would have talked about how many players we are missing. But because we have not dropped points no one is talking about that."

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Alisson; Bradley, Konate, Van Dijk, Robertson; Gravenberch, Jones; Frimpong, Szoboszlai, Wirtz; Ekitike.

LEEDS (3-5-2): Perri; Bornauw, Bijol, Struijk; Bogle, Stach, Ampadu, Aaronson, Gudmundsson; Nmecha, Calvert-Lewin.

REFEREE: Chris Kavanagh.

CRYSTAL PALACE v FULHAM

Premier League: KO 5.30pm, Sky Sports

SILVA'S TAKING ONE STEP AT A TIME

MARCO SILVA is happy for Fulham fans to dream about Europe – but he will stay level-headed and has his sights set on revenge against Crystal Palace.

The Cottagers suffered a 2-1 loss at home to the Eagles at the start of December despite a dominant display and will aim to serve up payback at Selhurst Park this evening.

"For me, it's about the next one, because football changes so quick," Silva said.

"Weeks ago you were asking me about the relegation battle and the bottom of the table. Probably when we went to play against Burnley and if a bad result, 'You can be in trouble' and after three or four weeks, you are asking me about European competitions.

"The Premier League is so tight and so demanding. OK, we are in a position and look always forward and for the next one as the main one.

"About the fans? Of course I like that they have ambition.

"It's good that the fans share this ambition and dream. We cannot control their thoughts, but let them keep dreaming and all we can do is ask them to support like they have been."

In the Palace camp, Oliver Glasner is fully focused on helping the Eagles start 2026 with a win over Fulham and not the transfer window.

The Austrian has made clear on multiple occasions his desire for FA Cup holders Palace to boost their squad for the second half of the campaign.

However, he is eager to concentrate on today's home clash after three league defeats.

"We are concentrating on the team that is available and we'll give everything to win against Fulham," Glasner said. "It is like a rematch. We want to get the turnaround at home and start the new year with a win."

PALACE (3-4-2-1): Henderson; Lemar, Lacroix, Guehi; Clyne, Wharton, Hughes, Mitchell; Pino, Devenny; Mateta.

FULHAM (4-2-3-1): Leno; Tete, Andersen, Cuenca, Robinson; Lukic, Berge; Wilson, Smith Rowe, Kevin; Jimenez.

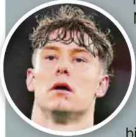
REFEREE: Tony Harrington.

FOCUSED Fulham boss Marco Silva is not distracted by European football

Strand-ed at Wolves

WEST HAM have cooled their interest in Jorgen Strand Larsen, with Wolves wanting £40million.

Nuno Espirito Santo is keen to improve his squad this month and striker Strand Larsen had been top of his most wanted list.



The 25-year-old Norway star, left, signed a new contract to 2030 in September and Newcastle had bids of £50m and £55m turned down for the hitman last summer.

Wolves host the Hammers on Saturday and boss Rob Edwards said: "There will be things going on [in the transfer window] but, right now, my focus has got to be on [the game with] West Ham."

BREN WAIT

CRYSTAL PALACE boss Oliver Glasner remains tight-lipped on the club's pursuit of Tottenham attacker Brennan Johnson.

Palace and Spurs reached an agreement on Tuesday over a £35million fee for Johnson, but the Wales international is yet to decide on his future.

"Everything I say today might be wrong in two days," he said yesterday.

Alysson on the move

ASTON Villa-bound winger Alysson has thanked Gremio as he prepares to make the switch to the Premier League.

The 19-year-old is expected to complete a move to Villa soon, although the club's short-term plans for him remain unclear.

Alysson (left) has played only one full season of professional football for Gremio, with his breakout campaign ending earlier this month.

He featured in 31 of the club's 38 league matches last season, scoring once and providing two assists. It is believed Villa view him as a long-term prospect.

VAR BLUES

EVERTON have been told they should have been awarded a penalty in their recent defeat at home against Arsenal.

Referee Sam Barrott did not award a penalty after William Saliba's challenge on Thierno Barry with VAR agreeing.

But the Key Match Incidents Panel voted 3-2 that the on-field decision was incorrect and Barrott should have been sent to the monitor.

THAT'S HANDY Bees fan and Spurs supporter were so full of praise for Frank

FRANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES

Brentford v Tottenham
Tonight, 8pm

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

WHILE enjoying lunch in London with his family, fate threw Tottenham boss Thomas Frank into the path of a rather apt couple ahead of the Dane's New Year's Day clash.

This afternoon Frank will make the trip across the capital to Brentford, where he spent almost nine years of his coaching career, seven of those as the Bees' head coach.

The game brings the 52-year-old to the Gtech Community Stadium with his Tottenham side and plenty to prove to his new fanbase while thanking the old one.

A win to kick off 2026 would lift 13th-placed Spurs above his old side, who sit ninth in the table, and begin to win over a section of the north London club's fanbase who holds doubts over the start to his tenure.

However, on Monday afternoon, while out for a meal with the rest of the Franks in Covent Garden, the Tottenham boss had a positive experience as he ran into two supporters who will sit on either side of this evening's divide.

"I was in London and met a couple. One was a Brentford fan and the other, she was a Tottenham fan," said the Spurs boss. "The Brentford fan was very positive and said thank you for everything I had done at the club. I said, 'You're welcome, it's not only about me, it's everyone doing things together'.

"The Tottenham supporter said, 'Keep doing what you're doing, you're doing a top job, I love what you're doing'. That was positive.

"I guess the ones who are not that positive are probably not brave enough to say it to my face. It's probably a little bit easier behind the keyboard, but the messages that I have are genuinely positive."

Frank is looking forward to stepping back inside a club where he achieved so much in taking them into the top flight and building a side that consistently beat the big boys.

"There were many magical moments it was a privilege to be part of with fantastic people," said the Dane. "Of course the promotion is the stand-out achievement. Getting promoted to the best league in the world, for the first time in 74 years or something like that, that's very unique."

BRENTFORD (4-2-3-1): Kelleher; Kayode, Ajer, Collins, Hickey; Yarmoliuk, Janelt; Lewis-Potter, Damsgaard, Schade; Thiago.
TOTTENHAM (4-2-3-1) Vicario; Porro, Romero, Van de Ven, Spence; Bentancur, Palhinha; Kudus, Gray, Odobert, Richarlison.
REFEREE: Andy Madley.

BRAVE THIAGO

KEITH ANDREWS has praised Igor Thiago for his courage after playing through pain in recent games for Brentford.

The striker has been key to the Bees' campaign this season with 11 goals in 18 outings. "He had a bit of an issue, nothing to do with his injury last season at all. This time of year, the amount of games, it takes its toll and we need to be careful with some players at times," said manager Andrews.

"He showed a lot of bravery and courage to play against Wolves, gave us that platform.

"He's showed a lot of courage and put the team before himself going into the last couple of games for us."

THE DREAM

Gabriel insists Gunners are full of confidence for title run-in after demolishing rivals Villa

BY **JOHN CROSS**

GABRIEL says Arsenal will take new "confidence" into the title race after seeing off one of their main rivals.

Gunners defender Gabriel was instrumental in helping Arsenal blitz Aston Villa to go five points clear at the top of the Premier League.

The thumping 4-1 win not only gives them a cushion over Villa and Manchester City, but it was also a strong statement by the Gunners.

Arsenal are now six points ahead of Villa and have turned up the pressure on Pep Guardiola's City ahead of their trip to Sunderland this evening.

Mikel Arteta's side have spent the past few weeks having to respond after City have played first, but now the tables have turned. The Gunners also go first this weekend when they face Bournemouth on Saturday before Guardiola's men face Chelsea 24 hours later.

The Emirates has been a nervy place as Arsenal have laboured to wins, conceded goals and relied on own goals. But this time, Arsenal delivered with a big performance to end Villa's 11-game winning run and also put some much-needed extra confidence and belief into their own dressing room.

Brazil international Gabriel said: "It gave a lot of confidence to us. We just need to believe in each other.

"It was an unbelievable day. We are very happy to perform like this against these guys. It's always tough.

"We know the Premier League is long, so we need to keep going. We were so happy to get points from a big game against a difficult team."

Gabriel's return to the starting line-up is a huge boost for Arsenal. He has missed nearly two months with a groin injury suffered while on international duty.

Arsenal have missed him at both ends of the pitch. They have conceded sloppy goals, but also have been without Gabriel's threat as an attacking force.

The Gunners scored their first set-piece goal in the Premier League in two months when Gabriel forced in Bukayo Saka's corner for the opener against third-placed Villa.

Villa goalkeeper Emi Martinez posted a picture on social media suggesting that he was elbowed by Gabriel.

But Gabriel did not even know whether the goal was his, and TV footage showed there was very little contact between the pair.

His goal was a huge moment after his long road back to fitness.

Gabriel said: "I didn't see yet if this was my goal or not. I think yes, but the most important thing is to get the three points.

"It feels very, very good. It was a difficult day, but I worked a lot to come back as quickly as possible. I'm so happy to be back with the team with a big win.

"I know it's a hard time for us now. I'm always there for the players to help them.

"I'm very happy to be back and to get the three points."

> We just need to believe in each other. The league is long, so we need to keep going

PREMIER TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	19	14	3	2	37	12	45
Man City	18	13	1	4	43	17	40
Aston Villa	19	12	3	4	30	23	39
Liverpool	18	10	2	6	30	26	32
Chelsea	19	8	6	5	32	21	30
Man Utd	19	8	6	5	33	29	30
Sunderland	18	7	7	4	20	18	28
Everton	19	8	4	7	20	20	28
Brentford	18	8	2	8	28	26	26
Newcastle	19	7	5	7	26	24	26
Crystal Palace	18	7	5	6	21	20	26
Fulham	18	8	2	8	25	26	26
Tottenham	18	7	4	7	27	23	25
Brighton	19	6	7	6	28	27	25
Bournemouth	19	5	8	6	29	35	23
Leeds	18	5	5	8	25	32	20
Nottm Forest	19	5	3	11	18	30	18
West Ham	19	3	5	11	21	38	14
Burnley	19	3	3	13	20	37	12
Wolves	19	0	3	16	11	40	3

SMASH AND GAB RAID Gabriel celebrates setting Arsenal on the way to beating Villa

Ole lotta love for anthem

BY **JOHN CROSS**

ARSENAL players are joining their fans by playing "set-piece again, ole, ole".

They have the football anthem on their dressing room playlist, which has been blaring out when Arsenal have been celebrating.

There is an Arsenal version of the song on streaming service Spotify, which the players have started playing so they can share it with their supporters.

Arsenal fans started singing the song as Mikel Arteta's men were scoring goals from corners and free-kicks to become known as the set-piece kings. Defender Gabriel's return to the starting line-up after injury saw him score their first set-piece goal in two months, against Aston Villa, to help put them five points clear at the top.

It was Arsenal's 13th set-piece goal in the Premier League this season – their 11th from a corner – level with Manchester United.

Arsenal fans revel in the 'set-piece kings' tag while opponents and pundits have been snooty. Arsenal posted videos of their celebrations after the 4-1 win over Villa. Arteta embraces the feelgood factor in the dressing room.

TOP GUNS

FROM BACK PAGE

the opening goal in Tuesday's win, said: "Yes, like I told you, we'll get the three points, no?

"Those sorts of things spur you on. It's good fun. It's fun for them, it's fun for us as well.

"It was not to get them back or to get Onana (left). I know he's a good guy. So, no fighting. Just something to celebrate."

Manchester City will look to

BELIEVERS

SUNDERLAND v MANCHESTER CITY
Premier League: Tonight, 8pm

Gvardiol admits he thinks about football night and day – and tips obsessed Pep to finish top again

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

JOSKO GVARDIOL admits Pep Guardiola's obsession with football has rubbed off on him.

To such an extent that the Manchester City defender goes to bed thinking about his game – and wakes up doing the same thing.

Gvardiol reckons having the best manager in the world can help City chase down Arsenal to win another Premier League title. City kick off 2026 with a trip to Sunderland, looking to narrow the gap on Mikel Arteta's league leaders to just two points.

Gvardiol is convinced City – and himself – are in safe hands when it comes to Guardiola and his fixation with football.

"When we talk about football, everyone says they consider him as one of the best in the world – and I agree with that," Gvardiol said. "The staff we have, they make everything easier for us. He lives for the sport. He lives 24 hours thinking about all that's happening here at the training ground.

"Yes, it's our job, but also sometimes when I'm at home I think, 'What can I do better, what can I do to get ready for tomorrow?' When I go to sleep sometimes, I think about scenarios in my head and I'm really grateful I can work with him. The energy he has and the way he approaches every meeting, and how he gives us the maximum of his time to explain things to us – that's fascinating to me.

"Of course you want to be at the top of the table, but we are up there, and we go game by game. We've done a good job so far, we have a few wins in a row, and I hope that will continue."

Boss lives 24 hours thinking about all that's happening at training ground

Sunderland have been a surprise package after making their return to the big time – and Guardiola has warned City to brace themselves for a tough scrap on Wearside.

He added: "It's not going to be easy. I've seen so many games of them playing at home and how good they are.

"It's will be a big challenge, so we need to be ready. They've surprised me a lot. You could feel their energy when we played them at home, and how they fight."

Sunderland defender Dan Ballard is out with an ankle problem.

SUNDERLAND (4-2-3-1): Roefs; Hume, Mukiele, Alderete, Cirkin; Xhaka, Geertruida; Rigg, Le Fee, Adingra; Brobbey

MANCHESTER CITY (4-3-3): Donnarumma; Nunes, Dias, Gvardiol, O'Reilly; Silva, Gonzalez, Reijnders; Cherki, Haaland, Foden

REFEREE: Jarred Gillett

PEP WALK Guardiola and Gvardiol at the final whistle

FIRED UP Gvardiol (right) and Rayan Cherki celebrate City's win over Forest

POCKET POINTS

cut the gap back to two points when they visit seventh-placed Sunderland tonight.

City won 3-0 at the Etihad Stadium, but manager Pep Guardiola expects a difficult encounter. He said: "They are so tough. The crowd is unbelievable. They have beaten Newcastle.

"Arsenal and Aston Villa could not win there. They have had good results. But we are ready."

Guardiola is relishing the return of Rodri from injury.

The Ballon d'Or winner was on the bench against Nottingham Forest, having started just four of City's 18 games – and none since early October.

Guardiola said: "We miss him a lot. The knee I know is fine, the muscles are fine. Hopefully, step by step, he can be involved with us."

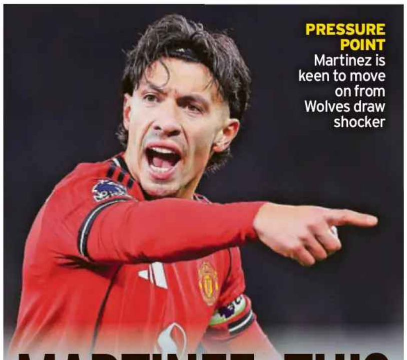
City frustration over FFP

FROM BACK PAGE

asking for a swift resolution for years and is still in the dark about when City will learn their fate. "It's the same question I ask you, so I don't know. I don't know," said the City boss. "Maybe you have better info than me.

"The same answer to your question is the same you answered me one, two, three years ago. So they must be so busy." Since the charges were announced, City have won the Treble and made history by becoming the first team in the history of English football to win four consecutive league titles.

They finished third last season after a difficult year but are in contention again in the Premier League and Champions League after strengthening the squad.



PRESSURE POINT Martinez is keen to move on from Wolves draw shocker

MARTINEZ: THIS CANNOT GO ON

BY **SIMON PEACH**

FURIOUS stand-in skipper Lisandro Martinez says Manchester United "can't miss points" like they did against rock-bottom Wolves.

The Red Devils came into the final fixture of a turbulent 2025 buoyed by the hard-fought Boxing Day win against Newcastle and as overwhelming favourites to beat Wanderers.

United took the lead through Joshua Zirkzee's deflected strike but failed to take their chances, with Ladislav Krejci's header late in the first half proving enough to earn Wolves a 1-1 draw.

It was just their third point in 19 matches and ended an 11-match top-flight losing streak, with many of the Old Trafford faithful greeting the final whistle with boos.

Put to United defender Martinez that it felt like a disappointing point, he said: "100 percent. We are disappointed. We can't be in our stadium still drawing, losing points. We have to win.

"We have to win, win, win, win, and we want to be in the first places, competing against the best. This is the game that we can't miss points. Now we have to take it, we have to accept it and with this hunger we have to go for the next one."

Martinez again wore the captain's armband in place of Bruno Fernandes, who watched a second game from the directors' box as he recovers from a soft tissue injury.

United boss Ruben Amorim was coy when asked about the availability of injured players for Sunday's tough trip to Leeds, who are desperate to beat their rivals for the first time since 2010.

"I think you have two ways [to approach things]," Martinez told MUTV as attention turns to Elland Road.

"One is like making excuses, or one is taking it with a big personality to say, 'Guys, we are missing points, and now we have to go for the next one, and have to show who we are'.

"We have to connect with ourselves and do the simple things."

Leeds are on a five-match unbeaten run that has seen Dominic Calvert-Lewin shine up front.

"It's about us," added Martinez. "I don't like to think about other clubs.

"I think about us, what we can improve as a team every day. We have to learn from that."

RAS' NAP TIME

NAPOLI sporting director Giovanni Manna considers Rasmus Hojlund's permanent transfer from Manchester United a "formality".

Hojlund, right, joined the Serie A champions on loan last summer and the Denmark striker has scored nine goals in 20 appearances.

"We did everything we could to sign him," Manna said. "There were more storied clubs interested, but his will was crucial, and we are proud of it.

"There's an option to buy and an obligation to buy if we qualify for the Champions League. The player considers himself a Napoli player, and the same goes for us."

Asked if Hojlund's permanent transfer was just a "formality", Manna told Corriere dello Sport: "As of today, I think so."

WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

DAILY EXPRESS
SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

Scout scoops top tipster prize

BY **JASON HEAVEY**

DAILY EXPRESS racing ace Melissa Jones has been crowned the best newspaper tipster in the country.

Melissa, tipping as The Scout, has won the 2025 Racing Post National Press Challenge.

The prestigious competition, comprising 11 of the UK's top tipsters, spanned the whole of last year and was based on more than 9,600 selections, including 25-1 winner Time For Sandals (left).

Melissa was the first female to become The Scout when she was appointed the paper's Chief Tipster in 2022. She is also Racing Correspondent for the paper.

Tipsters are ranked by return on a theoretical £1 bet on all selections at their starting price (SP), expressed as a percentage of turnover.

Melissa was locked for most of the

TURN TO PAGE 45, COLUMN 3

Pep frustrated as City FFP saga enters fourth year

BY **SIMON BAKOWSKI**

PEP GUARDIOLA said those responsible for a verdict on the Premier League charges against Manchester City "must be so busy" as the wait for a decision stretches into 2026.

City were first charged in February 2023 and a three-month hearing was wrapped up late in 2025 yet no conclusion has been reached.

The club released their annual report in December and confirmed that there had been no resolution at the date of publication, and claims since March that a decision has been imminent have all been wrong.

City were charged with breaking financial fair play rules over a nine-year period. As the charges enter a fourth year, there are no clues as to how much longer everyone will have to wait. Guardiola has been

TURN TO PAGE 51, COLUMN 3

WHY ARE WE STILL WAITING?

MAKING HIS POINT City manager Guardiola wants to know club's fate

ZIP IT Gabriel copies Onana's 'three points in pocket' gesture

GABRIEL POCKET ROCKET

BY **JOHN CROSS**

GABRIEL has revealed how Arsenal were "spurred on" to beat Aston Villa by their title rivals' celebrations from their previous clash.

The Gunners defender says he could not resist poking "fun" at Villa midfielder Amadou Onana's trademark 'pocket' celebration.

Onana has made a habit of putting his hand in his coat in front of the TV cameras to signify putting another win in his pocket. Gabriel mimicked Onana by copying his celebration.

Video footage on Arsenal's social media channels after the 4-1 victory showed Gabriel putting his hand in his coat pocket before zipping it up.

Villa celebrated wildly after beating Arsenal 2-1 at Villa Park on December 6, both on the pitch and down the tunnel, and it was clear that added extra spice to their Emirates rematch.

Arsenal were fired up for revenge and Gabriel, who scored

TURN TO PAGE 50, COLUMN 5

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

7				8		1		
	8	2	3	9			6	
	1		7				5	2
	5			7	9			4
6		9	2		8	3		
	4		1				7	
4	2				6		3	
	3	7		2	5			1
		6				5		8

MEDIUM

	8			5		3	2	
	2					5		9
5		1		2	7		4	
		5		9	1			
	9						5	
			7	3		4		8
	4		5	6		9		
2		7					3	
	6	3			4		8	

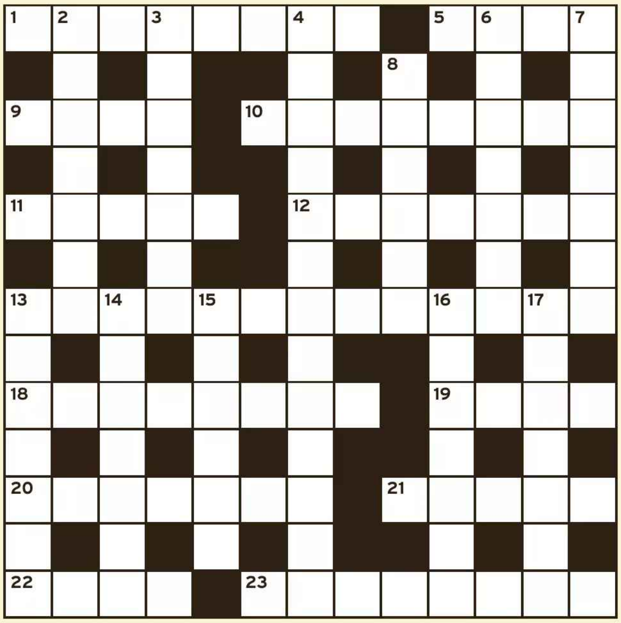
DIFFICULT

			6					3
	7			9	5			2
	9			7		4		
	2			6		8		
		8				6		
		5		4			2	
		7		2			6	
4			1	3			9	
1					7			

Extra clues:
0901 322 5609
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- **1** Clothing cupboard (8)
- **5** Dull pain (4)
- **9** Paradise (4)
- **10** Scorn (8)
- **11** Guide (5)
- **12** First-rate (3-4)
- **13** Statement (13)
- **18** Wrapper (8)
- **19** Excavates (4)
- **20** Makeshift (7)
- **21** Treated (5)
- **22** Twilight (4)
- **23** Journalist (8)

DOWN

- **2** Accountant (7)
- **3** Underground cell (7)
- **4** Ink-absorber (8-5)
- **6** Make up (7)
- **7** Beg (7)
- **8** Russian plain (6)
- **13** Urged (7)
- **14** Patent (7)
- **15** Compel (6)
- **16** Insanity (7)
- **17** Love-in-a-mist (7)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **16 mins**
Good: **12 mins** Excellent: **8 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

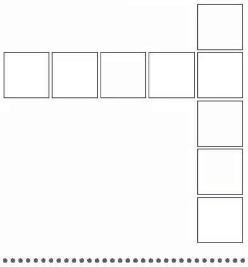
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

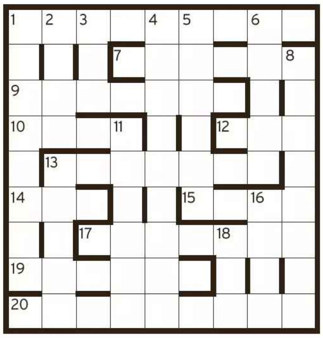
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. **Solution tomorrow**

C E G I K N O P T



SMALL CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- **1** Pills and ointments (9)
- **7** Parts of a bicycle (6)
- **9** Takes small bites (7)
- **10** Unoccupied (4)
- **12** Lower limb (3)
- **13** Speaks indistinctly (7)
- **14** Go brown (3)
- **15** Free from danger (4)
- **17** Bus terminal (7)
- **19** Repeat from memory (6)
- **20** Secret lab (anag.) (9)

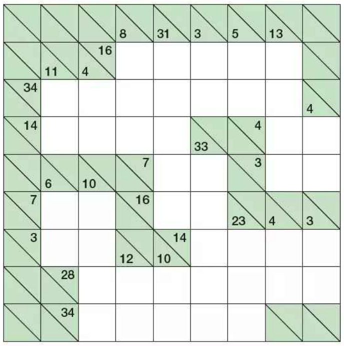
DOWN

- **1** Member of the clergy (8)
- **2** _ Blyton, writer (4)
- **3** Touch lightly and quickly (3)
- **4** Rejoice (9)
- **5** Standards (6)
- **6** Pixies (5)
- **8** Portions (8)
- **11** Causing vomiting (6)
- **13** Manufacturer (5)
- **16** Castle (4)
- **18** Anger, wrath (3)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

1 Thomas, 18th-century English composer noted for his setting of Shakespearean songs (4)
8 Volume of four stories by John Steinbeck whose central character is Jody Tiflin (3,3,4)
9 Adjustable flap over the front of a lamp in a theatre production (4,4)
10 Mountain range in central Europe whose highest peak is Mont Blanc (4)
12, 14 and 21 1974 novel by John Le Carré (6,6,7,3)
14 See 12
15 Capital of Iran (6)
17 'The --- ---', 1940 children's book by Arthur Ransome (3,3)
18 Martha, Best Actress in a Supporting Role Oscar nominee for Some Came Running (4)
19 Capital of Namibia (8)
21 See 12
22 Character played by Bob Hoskins in the Steven Spielberg film Hook (4)

DOWN

2 & 6 1965 stage play by Alan Ayckbourn (10,8)
3 Town in Berkshire, England which houses a public school for boys (4)
4 Jean, Best Director Oscar nominee for The Southerner (6)
5 Georges, French painter whose works include 1886's Dimanche À La Grande-Jatte (6)
6 See 2
7 Nestling hawk reared for training in falconry (4)
11 State capital of Rhode Island, US (10)
13 City in the Netherlands on the German border that is one of the oldest coal-mining centres in Europe (8)
16 Anthony, actor who was married to Joan Collins from 1963 to 1970 (6)
17 --- Movement Notation is a system of documenting dance that is named after its inventors, Joan and Rudolf (6)
18 The outer green or membranous covering of certain seeds and fruits (4)
20 Will H, US politician who was president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America from 1922 to 1945 (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
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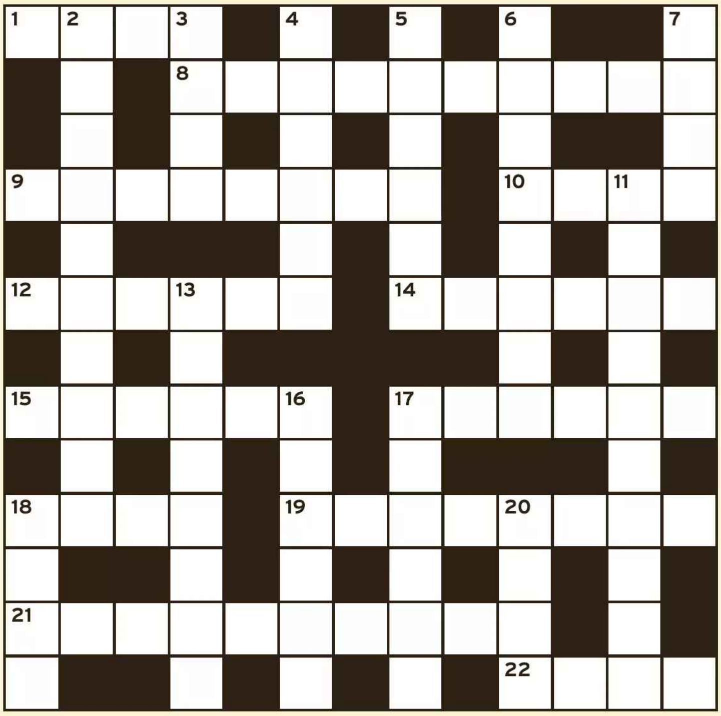
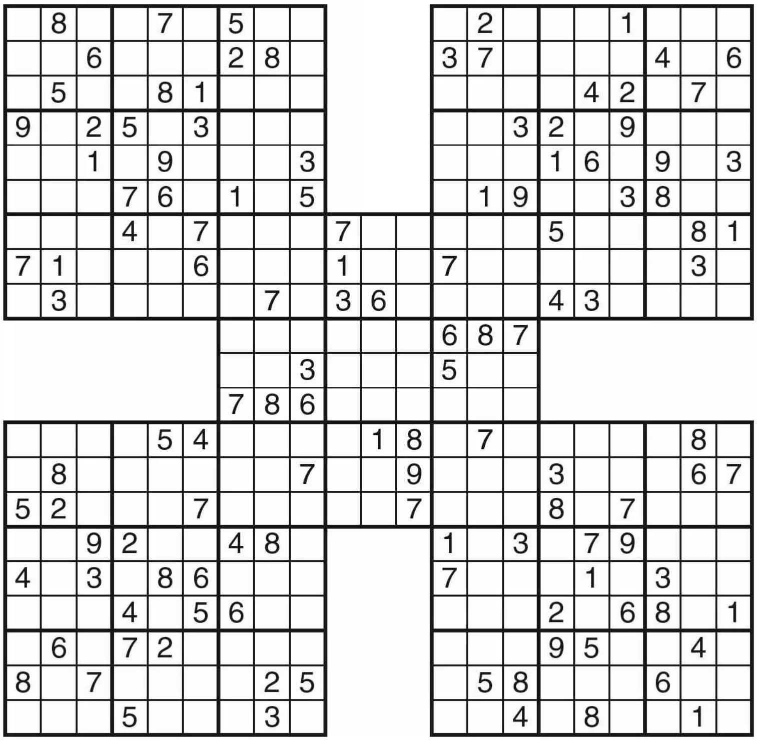


SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow



WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

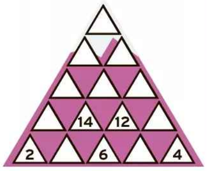
Solution tomorrow

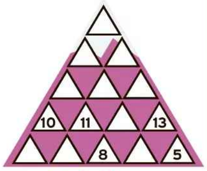
1 ☐☐☐
2 ☐☐☐☐
3 ☐☐☐☐☐
4 ☐☐☐☐☐☐
5 ☐☐☐☐☐
6 ☐☐☐☐
7 ☐☐☐

1 Small vegetable
2 Cloak
3 Quickly
4 Mansion
5 Position
6 Applaud
7 Mate

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



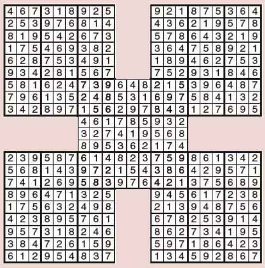


Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
7 Obote,
8 Onassis,
9 Eastman,
10 Sitar,
12 Narcolepsy,
15 Effi Briest,
18 Adair,
19 Vorster,
21 Brenton,
22 Tonto.
Down:
1 Lope de Vega,
2 House,
3 Perm,
4 Cognac,
5 Katsulas,
6 Isotope,
11 Roy Emerson,
13 Alboreto,
14 Of Games,
16 Irving,
17 Ntini,
20 Ritt.

SAMURAI SUDOKU



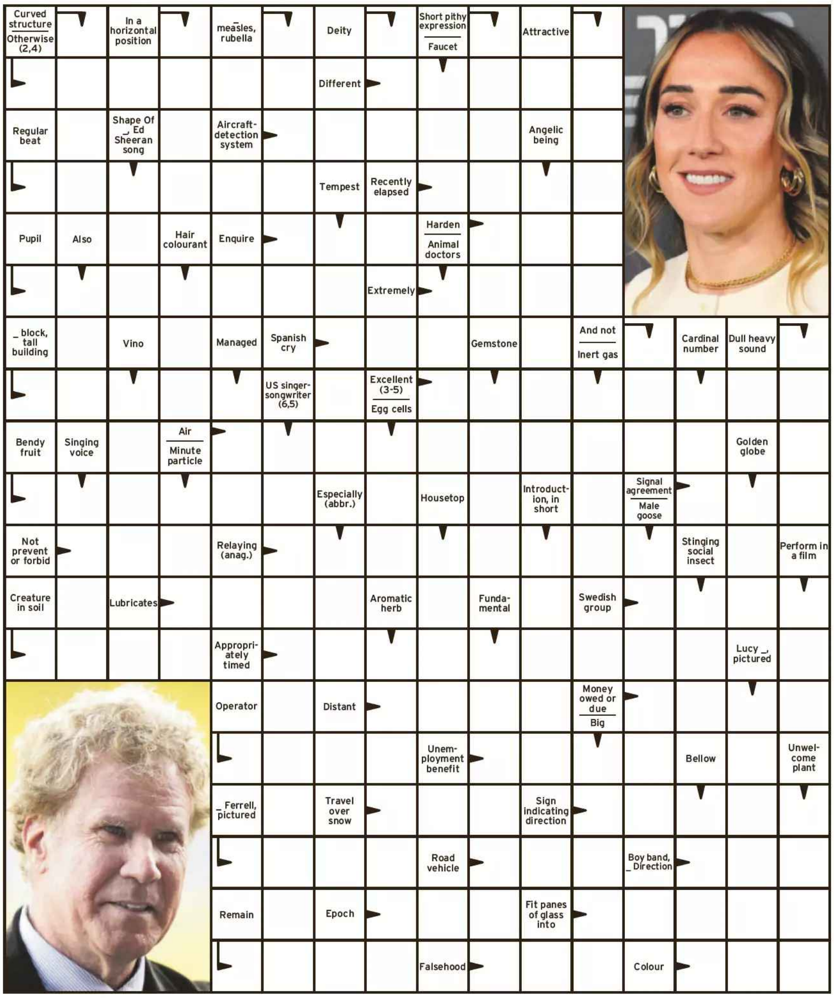
SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Dumbbell, **8** Marine, **9** Sail, **10** Cos, **11** Inmate, **13** Guarantor, **15** Alkali, **17** Act, **18** Drab, **19** Tremor, **20** Grenades.
Down: 1 Designate, **2** Uranus, **3** Maim, **4** Battalion, **5** Erse, **6** Licit, **7** Describes, **12** Solace, **14** Alter, **15** Acme, **16** Arid.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow


Curved structure
Otherwise (2,4)
In a horizontal position
_ measles, rubella
Deity
Short pithy expression
Faucet
Attractive
Different
Regular beat
Shape Of _, Ed Sheeran song
Aircraft-detection system
Angelic being
Tempest
Recently elapsed
Pupil
Also
Hair colourant
Enquire
Harden
Animal doctors
Extremely
_ block, tall building
Vino
Managed
Spanish cry
Gemstone
And not
Inert gas
Cardinal number
Dull heavy sound
US singer-songwriter (6,5)
Excellent (3-5)
Egg cells
Bendy fruit
Singing voice
Air
Minute particle
Golden globe
Especially (abbr.)
Housetop
Introduction, in short
Signal agreement
Male goose
Not prevent or forbid
Relaying (anag.)
Stinging social insect
Perform in a film
Creature in soil
Lubricates
Aromatic herb
Fundamental
Swedish group
Appropriately timed
Lucy _, pictured
Operator
Distant
Money owed or due
Big
Unemployment benefit
Bellow
Unwelcome plant
_ Ferrell, pictured
Travel over snow
Sign indicating direction
Road vehicle
Boy band, _ Direction
Remain
Epoch
Fit panes of glass into
Falsehood
Colour

WORDSEARCH

W	L	H	J	M	U	D	Y	F	N	Q	T	W	B	C
R	G	E	S	D	O	U	R	B	O	A	A	I	D	L
C	U	I	E	Q	B	I	R	L	W	H	S	E	G	E
N	B	U	O	P	E	L	E	K	T	H	N	F	D	E
O	G	W	P	D	H	A	T	L	O	V	A	R	T	S
J	I	D	A	D	U	S	D	P	E	M	G	U	E	E
M	Q	N	K	F	I	M	K	R	D	O	A	L	I	R
B	J	E	A	Q	F	K	F	W	O	J	T	U	J	G
R	D	G	O	X	Z	U	E	D	M	T	T	C	L	E
K	Y	E	X	F	V	R	M	R	E	A	X	C	P	C
H	M	L	W	O	A	A	I	N	B	G	P	J	F	P
R	A	V	A	W	N	J	U	Z	J	I	Y	X	O	N
Y	J	M	Y	L	Z	B	V	P	B	E	H	U	R	T
P	O	A	N	E	N	A	M	W	O	R	R	A	B	G
U	R	X	E	S	H	A	N	N	A	H	Q	A	J	W

FAMOUS JOHNS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

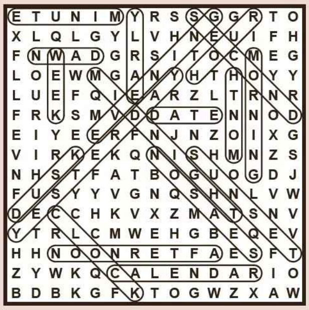
**BARROWMAN ● BISHOP ● CLEESE
DENVER ● FOWLES ● FRIEDA ● GOODMAN
HANNAH ● HURT ● LEGEND ● MAJOR
NETTLES ● PEEL ● TERRY ● THAW
TRAVOLTA ● UPDIKE ● WAYNE**

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Deduce, **4** Staple, **9** Instantaneous, **10** Elector, **11** Gauge, **12** Spool, **14** Stack, **18** Niche, **19** Pitfall, **21** Inflexibility, **22** Molest, **23** Meaner. **Down: 1** Driver, **2** Disrespectful, **3** Chant, **5** Tonight, **6** Pronunciation, **7** Ensued, **8** Story, **13** Oneness, **15** Infirm, **16** Optic, **17** Player, **20** Tribe.

WORDSEARCH



E	T	U	N	I	M	Y	R	S	S	G	G	R	T	O
X	L	Q	L	G	Y	L	V	H	N	E	U	I	F	H
F	N	W	A	D	G	R	S	I	T	O	C	M	E	G
L	O	E	W	M	G	A	N	Y	H	T	H	O	Y	Y
L	U	E	F	Q	I	E	A	R	Z	L	T	R	N	R
F	R	K	S	M	V	D	D	A	T	E	N	N	O	D
E	I	Y	E	E	R	F	N	J	N	Z	O	I	X	G
V	I	R	K	E	K	Q	N	I	S	H	M	N	Z	S
N	H	S	T	F	A	T	B	O	G	U	O	G	D	J
F	U	S	Y	Y	V	G	N	Q	S	H	N	L	V	W
D	E	C	C	H	K	V	X	Z	M	A	T	S	N	V
Y	T	R	L	C	M	W	E	H	G	B	E	Q	E	V
H	H	N	O	O	N	R	E	T	F	A	E	S	F	T
Z	Y	W	K	Q	C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	I	O
B	D	B	K	G	F	K	T	O	G	W	Z	X	A	W

ARROW-WORD

		C		B		S			S		T				
M	A	L	T	A		P	S	E	U	D	O				
	F	A	I	R	W	A	Y		S	E	W				
S	T	I	R	S		T	S	E	T	S	E				
	E	R	E		G	U	T		A	I	L				
	R	E	D	O		L	E	W	I	S					
	S		O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	S		G		F
P		T	U	B	A			P			T	R	I	K	E
I		S	T	I	G	M	A	T	I	S	E		R	N	A
A	S	H		T	S	A	R		M	E	A	S	L	E	S
	K	I	T	E		D	I	S	P	E	L		S	E	T
L	U	R	I	D			E	A	S	T		O		C	
	A	T	E		T	E	S	T		H	E	R	B	A	L
				O	I	L		E		E	S	C	A	P	E
					P	A	W				P	A	S	S	E
						S	A	L	A	R	Y		H		
				C	O	T	T	A	G	E		A	F	A	R
					W	I	C	K	E	D		L	U	C	Y
				I	N	C	H	E	S		M	E	L	E	E

SUDOKU EASY

7	5	1	3	8	6	9	4	2
2	3	4	9	5	7	8	6	1
8	9	6	4	2	1	3	5	7
9	6	5	7	1	3	2	8	4
1	4	8	5	6	2	7	3	9
3	7	2	8	9	4	6	1	5
5	2	9	6	4	8	1	7	3
4	8	7	1	3	9	5	2	6
6	1	3	2	7	5	4	9	8

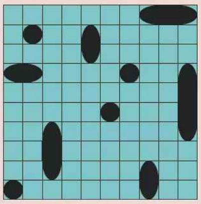
SUDOKU MEDIUM

6	1	3	7	2	9	5	4	8
8	4	2	1	3	5	6	9	7
9	7	5	6	4	8	2	3	1
3	8	7	5	6	1	9	2	4
2	5	4	3	9	7	1	8	6
1	9	6	2	8	4	3	7	5
4	3	8	9	1	6	7	5	2
7	6	9	8	5	2	4	1	3
5	2	1	4	7	3	8	6	9

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

2	9	4	1	3	5	8	7	6
8	1	3	7	4	6	9	2	5
6	5	7	2	9	8	1	4	3
9	2	6	8	1	3	7	5	4
7	3	5	9	6	4	2	8	1
1	4	8	5	7	2	3	6	9
5	7	9	6	2	1	4	3	8
3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1	7
4	6	1	3	8	7	5	9	2

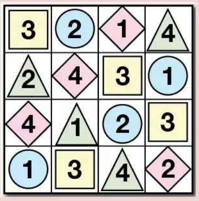
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		4	1		1	9		
	6	7	2	1	3	5	4	
	1	2		3	2		2	1
		6	1			1	3	2
	1	5	2			3	6	
	2	8		1	2		7	1
		9	5	2	6	7	8	4
			1	3		1	9	

KEIJO



3	2	1	4
2	4	3	1
4	1	2	3
1	3	4	2

TARGET

ACQUITTED
aced, acid, acquit, ACQUITTED, acted, acute, attic, cadet, cadi, caique, cite, cited, cued, cute, dace, dice, dictate, ducat, duct, ecad, edict, iced, tacet, tacit, tact

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Rapture, Dart, Suet, Talisman (clue), Wheezy, Trader, Offput, Binary, Tranquil, Cave, Pine, Henpeck.
Down: Grouch, Firkin, Spit, Expanse, Justly, Taught, Pellet, Byline, Disdain, Clef, Arcade, Revoke.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 22, 26, 28, 38, 39, 40.
Across: Midnight, Hour, Madly, Stye, Jeans, Sad, Queasy, Soft, Obey, Orison, Pox, Flask, Inky, Vivid, Sway, Becalmed. **Down:** Mows, Thumb, Lisp, Era, Numeracy, Snap, Syrup, Halva, Oxide, Detox, Zone, Suicidal, Ago, Grin, Flock, Yard.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: DOZEN
Down: BAKED

SUMMIT UP

95 and 102

WORD BUILDER

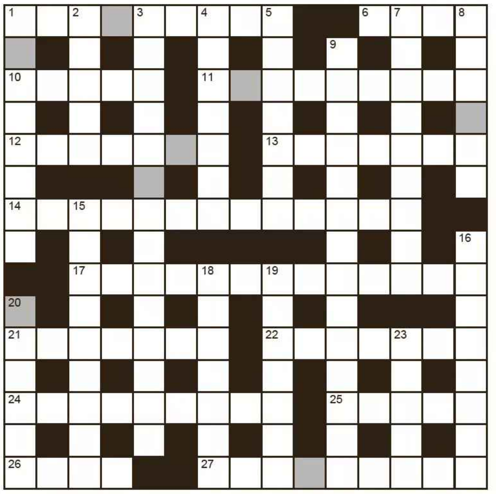
Ova, Oval, Salvo, Loaves, Loves, Sole, Ole

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 She answers engineers with second study (9)
6 Curse out of loathing (4)
10 Put out some medicine around university (5)
11 Bar establishes club behind corner (5,4)
12 Feature terrible recital (7)
13 Different insoles for England player (7)
14 Affectionate spirit averts it, somehow (13)
17 Books using separate characters are important (7,6)
21 Eggs, darling? Sound like a ruminant (3,4)
22 Vice can change treatment for virus (7)
24 Quiet nice rest? Awfully psychic (9)
25 Turn on wise man for choice of words (5)
26 Elevator gets illuminated with loud interior (4)
27 Candy for dessert, and beef, say (9)

DOWN
1 Mammal and padre got confused (3,5)
2 Crouch, being dumpy (5)
3 Arrogance concerning secret (14)
4 Most expensive keys joining the others (7)
5 Algeria's new royal emblems (7)
7 Ten meagre changes to negotiated arrangement (9)
8 Frank is the son, confusingly (6)
9 Place story in storage facility? (7,7)
15 Feel a palm turning into a national symbol (5,4)
16 Cheese gathering is most fleeting (8)
18 Sailor obtains his objectives (7)
19 Allocate energy for enthusiast (7)
20 Force to support the Spanish (6)
23 Different aim, say – returning picture (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 1, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 2 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Mice, 3 Gunfighter, 9 Dada, 10 Heart-throb, 11 Give-and-take, 15 Scripture, 17 Pecan, 18 Amuse, 19 Catherine, 20 In a nutshell, 24 Repatriate, 25 Stop, 26 Gold-digger, 27 Slur.
DOWN: 1 Madagascar, 2 Cadaverous, 4 Upend, 5 Firmament, 6 Gutter press, 7 Tart, 8 Ruby, 12 Appreciated, 13 Accidental, 14 Interloper, 16 Unceasing, 21 Untie, 22 Drag, 23 Opal.
Prizeword: Hundred

TARGET

F	E	R
I	U	D
N	E	N

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

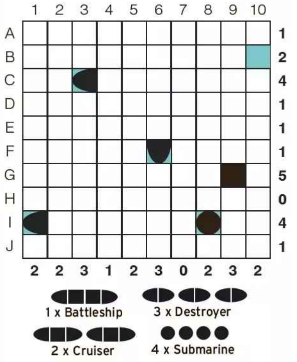
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 16; **very good** 24; **excellent** 31 **(or more).** **Solution tomorrow**

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 38 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

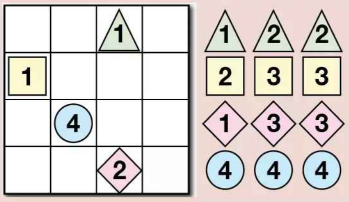
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A B	31	6	39	32	6	39	28	1	16	11	10	27	30
~~C~~ D	16	40	15	12	4	34	25	27	32	24	20	34	20
E ~~F~~	35	10	20	3	8	4	2	6	12	9	6	40	23
G H	12	22	31	19	14	28	19	10	26	22	24	16	27
I J	3	6	38	8	16	38	27	36	8	37	20	10	21
K L	18	28	8	22	13	19	10	29	26	18	2	40	31
M N	5	7	24	8	33	24	35	18	18	36	14	13	6
O P	8	29	9	10	2	40	20	13	28	19	24	26	32
Q R	27	31	4	20	24	6	32	30	7	17	20	32	30
S T	10	7	8	12	22	32	11	26	4	34	10	19	7
U V	6	2	6	11	34	17	34	14	27	38	24	10	5
~~W~~ X	14	9	14	15	10	8	37	2	36	9	38	11	29
Y Z	21	20	24	13	29	10	12	10	8	25	8	39	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	■															F			
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**	**36**	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
							■									W		C	

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT to 64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution tomorrow**
DIFFICULTY: 9/10; **TARGET:** 29 mins; **CLUE:** Trunk found in roost.

A B	19	13	24	14	11	18	25	19	■	■	1	■	23
C D	4	■	17	■	7	■	15	■	18	13	4	24	13
E F	22	13	5	15	9	24	18	11	4	■	17	■	4
G ~~H~~	12	■	19	■	22	■	11	■	13	■	24	26	25
I J	18	4	11	11	■	11	15	13	5	9	23	■	10
K L	■	■	4	■	2	■	7	■	1	■	■	■	13
M N	19	17	24	20	5	11	■	24	3	13	9	17	15
O P	13	■	■	■	9	■	19	■	11	■	5	■	■
Q R	14	■	4	11	9	25	13	15	■	24	15	17	9
S T	12	25	11	■	3	■	14	■	1	■	21	■	3
U V	17	■	1	■	11	8	12	3	11	18	25	6	11
W X	24	16	11	17	4	■	11	■	15	■	4	■	17
~~Y~~ Z	24	■	3	■	■	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
								Y	H			

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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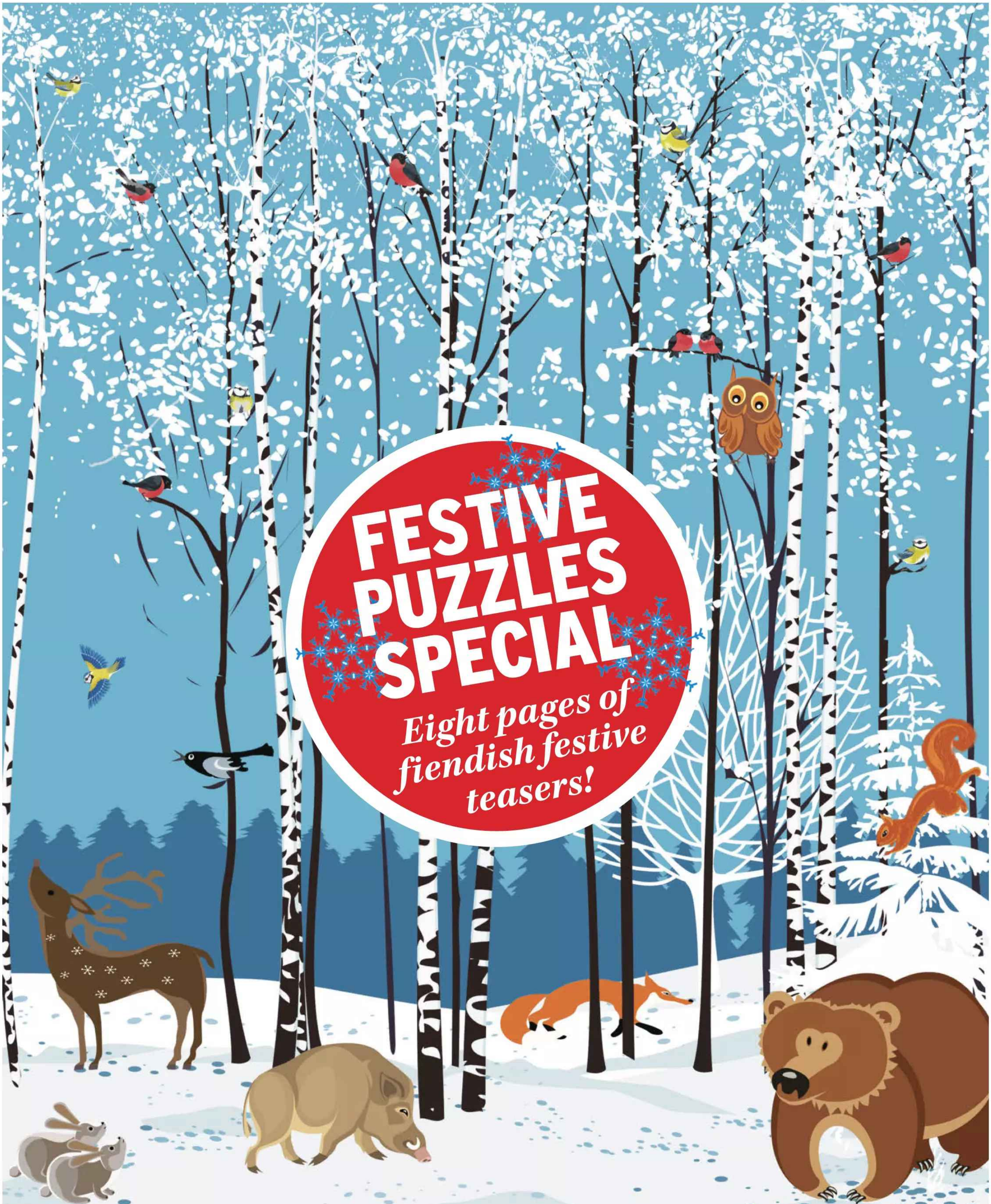
THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 8; INTERMEDIATE = 114; ADVANCED = 252.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

SP: Spoke – ***Helpline 0333 202 3390***



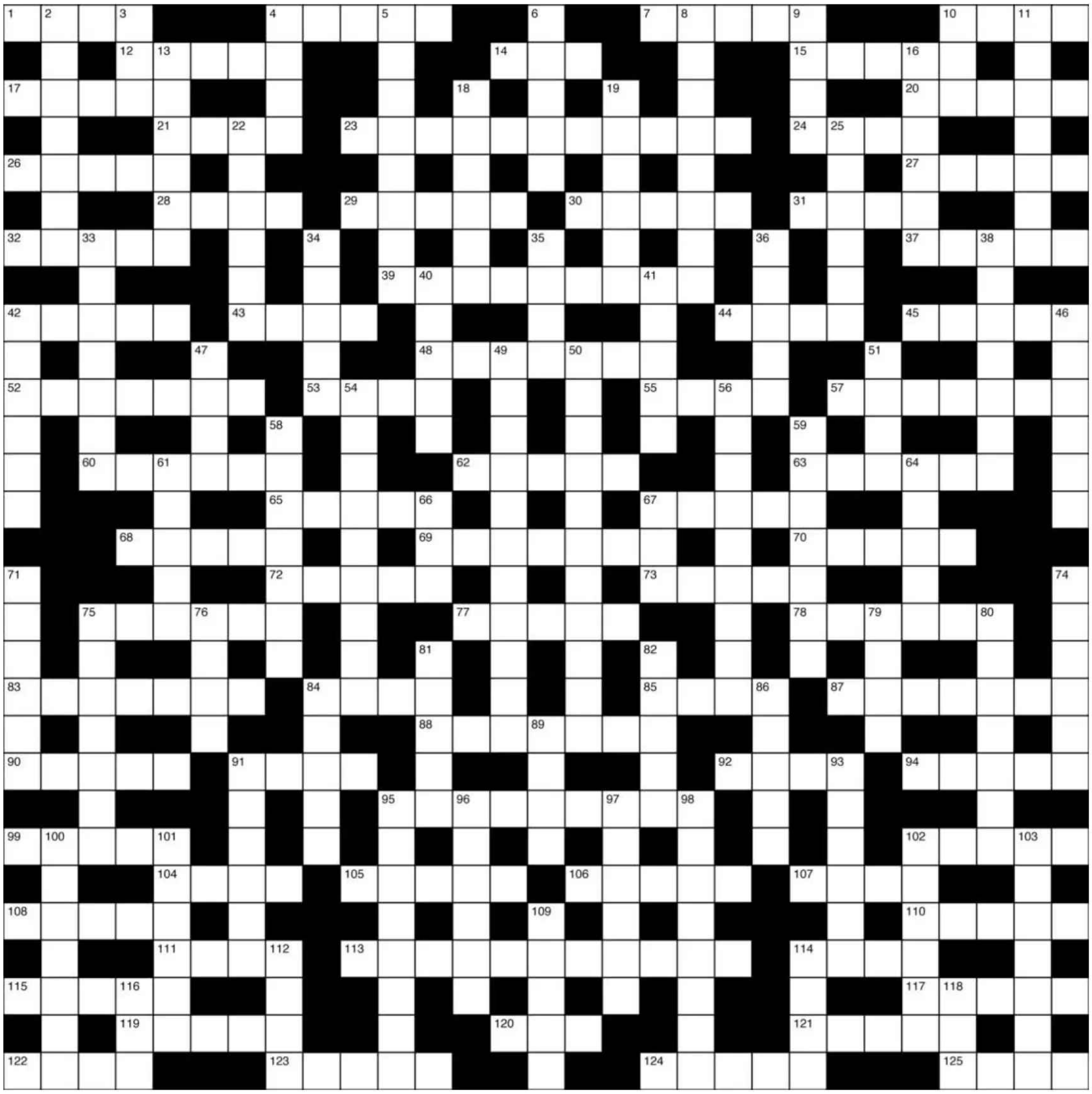
FESTIVE PUZZLES SPECIAL

Eight pages of fiendish festive teasers!

Can you find the butterfly hidden in this winter scene?

NEW YEAR CROSSWORD

Choose between cryptic and straight clues in this giant crossword – both sets lead to the same answers.



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

1 Made up woman in panto (4)
4 Precise former part of show (5)
7 Cigar, for example, hindering Santa's visit (5)
10 First man to be a mother (4)
12 It's true five have a cover (5)
14 What some drinks are, curiously (3)
15 Cake made by Gabriel? (5)
17 Denim brought back and dug up (5)
20 It's lawful to support Capone (5)
21 Sin at end of Carol Service (4)
23 Rosie can't do badly if they're hung at Christmas (11)
24 Grows during Oxford Street display (4)
26 Story of elf coming back without sailor (5)
27 How king and queen, perhaps, send greetings (5)
28 Seasonal fellow (4)
29 Proverb of the commercial era (5)
30 Method said to measure ingredients (5)
31 A talent for donation (4)
32 Possibly isn't a good man? (5)
37 Exhausted with what "48 Across" has done (5)
39 Bert reads about Robin (9)
42 A shade inexperienced (5)
43 It's Christmas time, you'll say (4)
44 Is God's kingdom in Lazio? Never! (4)
45 Guiding lights for celebrities (5)
48 One may get a lot of presents unwrapped (7)
52 Bus able to provide Christmas tree decorations (7)
53 Beast in panto - great performance (4)
55 Care about ethnicity (4)
57 Santa's tower with glowing head-light? (7)
60 Are set up for the next festival (6)
62 His career may be going downhill (5)
63 Rode up awkwardly and delivered drinks (6)
65 Old tribe taking frozen water to Northern Ireland (5)
67 Celia changed into another girl (5)
68 A young lady could be wrong (5)
69 Puss with no tale to tell (4,3)
70 Stately, like David's city (5)
72 Flower put back left one inside (5)
73 Run in a crowd scene (5)
75 Santa's entrance on a ship? (6)
77 A bit of a fight (5)
78 Enlist new sort of glittery stuff (6)
83 He was known for his Christmas humbugs (7)
84 Notion occurs in hideaway (4)
85 Yes, a muddle is not difficult (4)
87 To steal apples youth leader needs a drink (7)
88 It's saintly to get smaller in bed (7)
90 Wanting river to flow back in New York (5)
91 Greet the winter weather (4)
92 Cloying sentimentality may get the sled team going! (4)
94 Think about children (5)
95 Town with many early Christmas hotel bookings! (9)
99 Appointments made for fruit (5)
102 Drink with a real hit (5)
104 Instrument in the flute section (4)
105 Coach in art, possibly? (5)
106 Correct if named wrongly (5)
107 Some imaginary wise men (4)
108 Races around causing alarm (5)
110 Spirit appears with a bit of polish! (5)
111 & 113 The Lord Mayor's show? (4,11)
114 Light shined by "11 Down" (4)
115 Shoot if grip's broken (5)
117 Occasion getting flat before time (5)
119 Goddess seen in the heavens (5)
120 One card that cannot be returned (3)
121 Sound way of doing divine food (5)
122 Spot an agent from the east (4)
123 Lingers to see old corset (5)
124 You're in the theatre under it! (5)
125 Trifles given as presents? (4)

DOWN

2 Bail out a scholar in panto (3,4)
3 Partner of "10 Across" hiding in several places (3)
4 Advantage some sledges have (4)
5 See 13 Down
6 Trimmed beard to make a sauce (5)
8 Hiding out in the mountain at mass time (8)
9 Point when tea's drunk (4)
10 Nightingale at last has a drink (3)
11 He got great reward for light cleaning (7)
13 & 5 Dn It offers many openings in the run-up to Christmas (6,8)
16 Chooses to select another way (6)
18 What the fraudulent blacksmith did? (6)
19 Came in another way to theatre (6)
22 Weep about the girl's fruit (6)
25 Not quite lifting the dried grape (6)
33 Some hard water put in the drink (3-4)
34 Instrument made by prison circle (5)
35 Produce a haircut (4)
36 & 56 Dn Berlin air producing a snowy season (5,9)
38 Allowed to be fit in the finish (7)
40 Comfort long supporter of art (5)
41 Initially, scent of roses reminds you to be sad (5)
42 Talk turkey? (6)
46 Fish put into classes (6)
47 Enthusiasm for flavouring cake (4)
49 Merry monarch who requested a trio of conmen? (3,4,4)
50 Perhaps I can arrange wall-hangings (5,6)
51 Trade union twice getting a skirt (4)
54 Does Santa live in an environmentally-aware country? (9)
56 See 36 Down
58 Hair appears to burst blister (7)
59 Musical production needing a note to work (7)
61 He simply wanted some pie (5)
64 Gathers pears somehow (5)
66 Chimpanzee is a devil inside (3)
67 Consumed tea messily (3)
71 Spring, maybe, as nose is broken (6)
74 Took the role of the drama editor (6)
75 Game penalty for quartet in good health, say? (7)
76 Almost dark? Almost (4)
79 Cine adaptation is pleasing (4)
80 Mock "114 Across" with nothing on (7)
81 Sort of television wire (5)
82 A piece of cake at the golf club (5)
84 Sort of sugar that's a danger to aviation (5)
86 Being youthful makes you no good initially (5)
89 Last sort of sailor (4)
91 When agitated, is he about to twitch? (6)
93 Laugh at vehicle carrying a cigar (6)
95 Anniversary, third, arranged in bay (8)
96 Distorts dances (6)
97 Show of respect for silver in the house (6)
98 Damn lion breaks an instrument (8)
100 Takes out caps etc. (7)
101 Leg Des breaks with a toboggan (6)
102 Male chauvinist writer at home on the farm (6)
103 Present delivery entrance (7)
109 Cut up rodents eating top of nut (5)
112 What getting cross with a card may mean (4)
114 It's untrue about Monsieur getting fruit (4)
116 Poison girl (3)
118 Tank tax? (3)

STRAIGHT

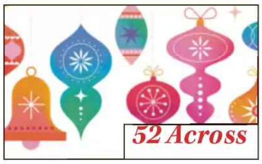
ACROSS

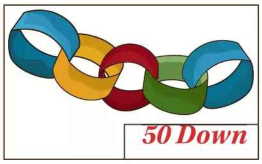
1 Panto role (4)
4 Accurate (5)
7 Fumes (5)
10 Man's name (4)
12 Authentic (5)
14 Arid (3)
15 Heavenly messenger (5)
17 Excavated (5)
20 Licit (5)
21 Grip (4)
23 Ornaments (11)
24 E.g. fir (4)
26 Moral tale (5)
27 Eccentric characters (5)
28 Christmas (4)
29 Saying (5)
30 Find the heaviness of (5)
31 Present (4)
32 Holy man (5)
37 Exhausted (5)
39 Robin (9)
42 Colour (5)
43 Festive season (4)
44 Heaven (4)
45 Heavenly bodies (5)
48 Customer (7)
52 Trinkets (7)
53 Monster (4)
55 Competition (4)
57 Red-nosed reindeer (7)
60 Religious festival (6)
62 Winter sportsman (5)
63 Teemed (6)
65 Boudicca's tribe (5)
67 Wonderland girl (5)
68 Wrong (5)
69 Tailless animal (4,3)
70 Regal (5)
72 Flower (5)
73 Additional (5)
75 Smoke-stack (6)
77 Piece (5)
78 Xmas tree decoration (6)
83 Dickens character (7)
84 Thought (4)
85 Simple (4)
87 Strong cider (7)
88 Holy (7)
90 Poor (5)
91 Frozen rain (4)
92 Soft pulpy mass (4)
94 Ponder morbidly (5)
95 Jesus's birthplace (9)
99 Fruit (5)
102 Mixed drink (5)
104 Musical instrument (4)
105 Locomotive (5)
106 Improve (5)
107 The three wise men (4)
108 Frighten (5)
110 Spirit (5)
111 & 113 Pantomime (4,11)
114 Lantern (4)
115 Spray (5)
117 Happening (5)
119 Planet (5)
120 Expert (3)
121 Heavenly food (5)
122 Notice (4)
123 Remains (5)
124 Cutlery item (5)
125 Playthings (4)

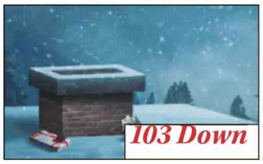
DOWN

2 Panto character (3,4)
3 Day before (3)
4 Rim (4)
5 See 13 Down
6 Bakery product (5)
8 Witching hour (8)
9 Direction (4)
10 Beer (3)
11 Panto character (7)
13 & 5 Dn Large card with numbered doors (6,8)
16 Chooses (6)
18 Counterfeited (6)
19 Film theatre (6)
22 Fruit (6)
25 Dried grape (6)
33 Drink cooler (3-4)
34 Stringed instrument (5)
35 Riding whip (4)
36 & 56 Dn Festive song (5,9)
38 Made possible (7)
40 Artist's stand (5)
41 Rueful (5)
42 Eat quickly (6)
46 Academy (6)
47 Peel (4)
49 Nursery rhyme character (3,4,4)
50 Festive festoons (5,6)
51 Ballet skirt (4)
54 Santa's home (9)
56 See 36 Down (9)
58 Facial hair (7)
59 Function (7)
61 Boy's name (5)
64 Harvests (5)
66 Little devil (3)
67 Consumed (3)
71 Flavour (6)
74 Portrayed (6)
75 Penalty in games (7)
76 Near (4)
79 Pleasant (4)
80 Satirise (7)
81 Strong rope (5)
82 V-shaped block (5)
84 Cake covering (5)
86 Youthful (5)
89 Seasoning (4)
91 Feverish (6)
93 Cigar (6)
95 Anniversary (8)
96 Cheats (6)
97 Show of respect (6)
98 Musical instrument (8)
100 Adopts (7)
101 Sleigh (6)
102 Animal enclosure (6)
103 Flue (7)
109 Processed meat (5)
112 Touch gently (4)
114 Citrus fruit (4)
116 Climbing plant (3)
118 Large vessel (3)

39 Across


52 Across


50 Down


103 Down

LOGIC

Using the grid below, can you work out which is the best Christmas toy of 2025?

Product researchers James and Gina were commissioned by X-MASS Corporation Limited to determine which Christmas toys of 2025 are the best value for money, and the most appealing to children. They spent the day collecting data from child surveys about the likeability of five Christmas toys.

"The least expensive toy, which is 68cm long, had a fun factor of less than five," said James.

"Perhaps that toy isn't the best value for money then. On the other hand, the toy with the highest fun factor is shorter than the Robot Panda, and more expensive than the Giant Whistle," replied Gina.

"Great, I'll make a note of that. The Stretchy Duck costs £18 and has one more fun factor point than the toy that is 97cm long," added James.

"The Lava Ball, which has a fun factor of two, is over 70cm long," said Gina.

"Okay, I will add that to our report. Slime Attack was the shortest toy and has a higher fun factor than the toy which is 45cm long," replied James.

"Finally, the Robot Panda costs £17, which is cheaper than the longest toy," concluded Gina.

James and Gina were satisfied with their results and were able to compile a report for X-MASS Corporation Limited advising them on the best toy for children this Christmas. Can you determine the price, length and fun factor of each toy?

	£14	£16	£17	£18	£20	Fun factor: 0	Fun factor: 2	Fun factor: 5	Fun factor: 6	Fun factor: 7	10cm	45cm	68cm	97cm	101cm
Robot Panda															
Slime Attack															
Stretchy Duck															
Giant Whistle															
Lava Ball															
10cm															
45cm															
68cm															
97cm															
101cm															
Fun factor: 0															
Fun factor: 2															
Fun factor: 5															
Fun factor: 6															
Fun factor: 7															

Toy	Cost	Fun factor	Size

BRAIN TRAINING

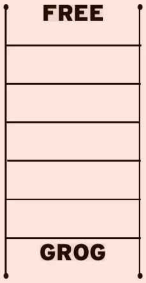
"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right" (Oprah Winfrey)

Give your brain a proper workout with this fine selection of mini puzzles, designed to stimulate those little grey cells in five key areas: Words, Visualisation, Numbers, Memory and Logic.

WORDS

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word in the ladder. There may be more than one solution.



ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each of the phrases below to reveal the names of five Winter Olympic events.

NOT SLEEK

KEY CHOICE

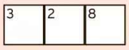
SINKING A PILE

GET FRAU SKIING

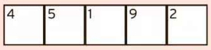
GRAB ON NOW, SID

NINER

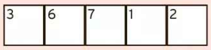
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word



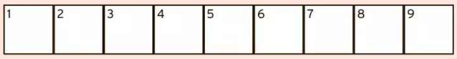
= a home for pigs



= a home for beavers



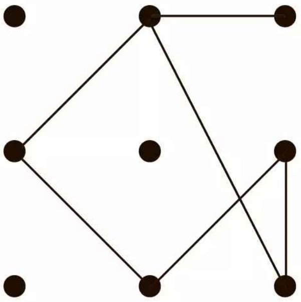
= a group of lions



VISUALISATION

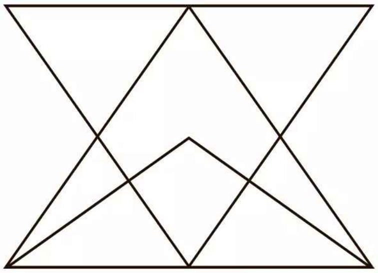
TRIANGLE

Draw **2** straight lines to make **6** triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot to dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Triangles must not contain lines running through them, and every line segment must form part of a triangle.



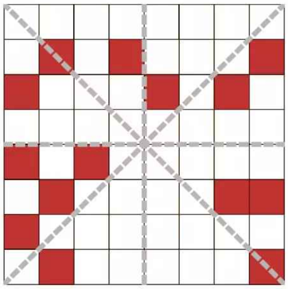
SHAPES

How many triangles are there in the illustration below?



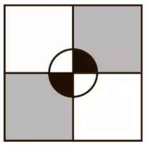
SYMMETRY

Shade in eight of the blank squares so that the pattern shows reflectional symmetry along one of the four axes shown.

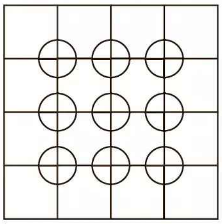


SEKI

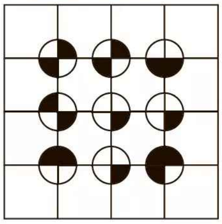
Using the blank grid, rotate some of the circles shown in the start grid and then shade in the corresponding squares (as shown right), so that shaded squares contain only black quarter-circles.



BLANK GRID

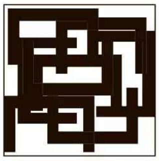


START GRID

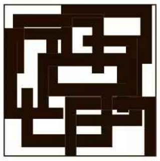


MIRROR IMAGE

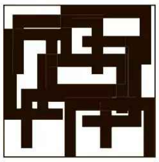
Which of the four images below is the mirror image of the one to the right?



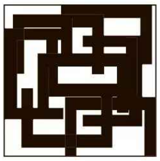
A



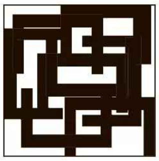
B



C



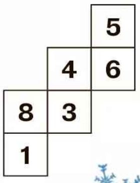
D



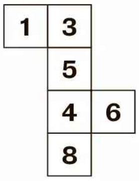
NETS

Which of these nets can be constructed to make a cube in which all opposite faces add up to an odd number?

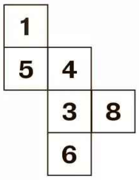
A



B



C



NUMBERS

SUMTHING

Place the listed numbers into the grid so that all sums are correct, reading left to right and top to bottom.

1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 5, 5, 6, 7, 9, 9

	×	4	=		
÷	■	+	■	−	■
	×		=		
=	■	=	■	=	■
	×		=		

NUMBER JIG

Which one of the listed numbers won't fit in this mini grid?

	■		■
	2		
	■		■

2845
4582
5248
5824
8254

30-SECOND MATHS

Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's puzzle. Advanced players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck!

BEGINNER 13	×3	+3	÷7	×12	-20	÷4	+38	÷3	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE 11	Square it	-37	5/12 of this	+36	×3	-85	75% of this	÷12	ANSWER
ADVANCED 349	-185	Increase by 75%	+186	6/11 of this	-76	÷13	+463	÷9	ANSWER

LOGIC

CELLS

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

		3		4		
5		2				
		2			8	
		2			3	
		2	2		4	
			3			
2			4			3

REASONING

1 Four friends are comparing their rings. They realise that the ruby ring is dearer than the topaz ring and Sally's ring separately, and that Sue's ring is cheaper than Sam's ring and the emerald ring separately. If Shona's ring is dearer than Sam's, and the sapphire ring is cheaper than Sue's, which ring does each friend own?

2 The boys are comparing their lucky dip toys. Fred didn't select the red package, the yo-yo or the bubbles. Jim either selected the bubbles or the spinner, but he didn't pick the white package. Sam picked either the blue or the red package. Ken selected either the stickers or the bubbles, but he didn't pick the pink package. Each boy chose a different colour package and toy. If the spinner was in the red package, which colour package and toy type did each boy get?

EVENS

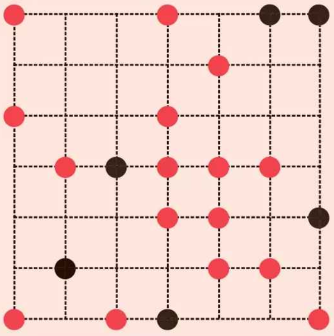
Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares, so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and even numbers must be placed in shaded squares.

			▨	11
▨			▨	30
		▨	▨	14
		▨	▨	30
29	20	16	20	

DANGO

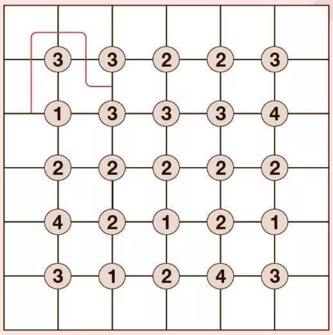
Draw lines between the dots to create four shapes in the grid. No shape may touch another and you must use all the dots. When a line reaches a dot, it turns as shown:

● 90° 🔴 45° or 135°



LOOP

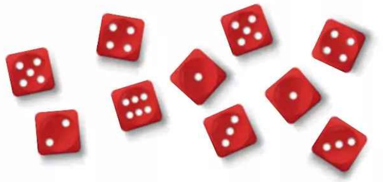
Draw a continuous loop in the grid so that the number in each circle corresponds to the number of adjacent squares containing turns in the loop. Part of the loop has been drawn to get you started.

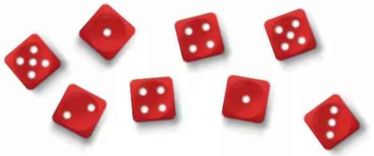


MEMORY

DICE GAME

Cover the bottom group of dice, and look closely at the top group for ten seconds. Then cover the top group and show the bottom group. Which dice are missing?





LOST FOR WORDS

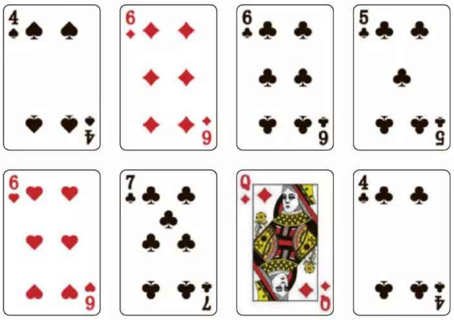
Cover the group of words on the right, then study the group on the left for two minutes. Then cover the group on the left and show the group on the right. Which words are missing?

BEAST
BOUQUET
COBALT
COLOSSUS
CURIUM
FUCHSIA
GRAPEJUICE
LEISURE
NOVEL
ORCHID
PETUNIA
POTASSIUM
RELAXATION
RESPITE
SILICON
SINGULAR
STRONTIUM
TITANIUM
UNCOMMON
WOLVERINE
YEAST

RELAXATION
SILICON
BEAST
SINGULAR
FUCHSIA
NOVEL
RESPITE
WOLVERINE
UNCOMMON
COLOSSUS
COBALT
BOUQUET
POTASSIUM
CURIUM
YEAST
TITANIUM
ORCHID
GRAPEJUICE

CONCENTRATION

Study this set of playing cards for 30 seconds, then cover them up and answer the questions below.



1 What is the total of all the clubs on the top row?
2 How many fours are there?
3 How many cards have red suits?

festive puzzles special

MINDBENDERS

Can you solve these festive teasers?

1 So far this Christmas four friends have eaten a total of 78 mince pies between them. Lindsay munched three-fifths as many mince pies as Jasmine, who scoffed five times as many pies as Noah, who ate one quarter of the number Alice got through. How many mince pies has Noah consumed?

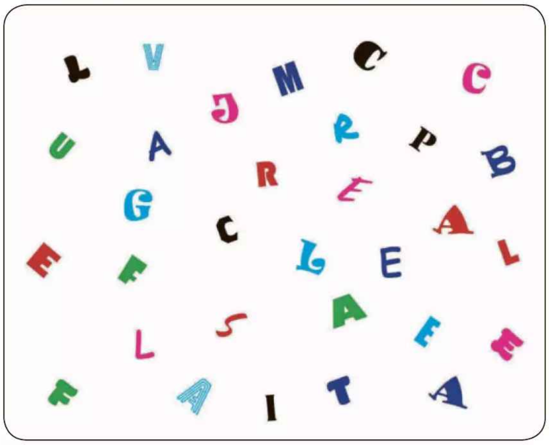
2 Maria woke up at 8am every morning of Christmas week and had a lie-in. On Monday and Tuesday she spent the same time lying in bed. Wednesday's lie-in was 18 minutes shorter, which was four-fifths as long as Thursday's and Friday's lie-ins. If the average lie-in length was an hour, what time did Maria get out of bed on Wednesday?

3 Once every minute the angel on top of a moving Christmas display is rotated in the following way: clockwise by 68 degrees, anti-clockwise by 50 degrees, and then clockwise by six degrees. After how many minutes will it end this sequence facing the same way as it started?

4 Phoebe, Florence and Ivy are comparing the number of Christmas cards they have received. Phoebe and Florence got 43 cards between them. Florence and Ivy have 57, while Ivy and Phoebe received 36. How many cards did Florence receive?

ALPHABET SOUP

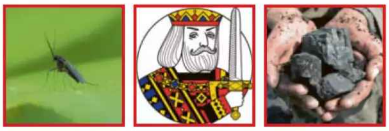
Pick out the floating letters to spell five items of winter clothing.


L V M C C
U A J R P B
G R E A
E E C L E L
L S A E E
E A I T A

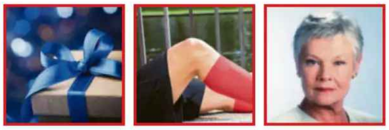
PICTURE THIS

Put together the pictures below to come up with three singers of popular Christmas songs

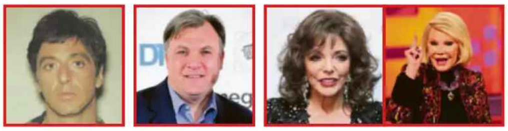
1



2



3



QUOTE DOWN

Drop the letters in each column to reconstruct a quote by Stephen Fry. Words may be split across two lines.

	H			H	H	P				H					I		T		
V	E	S		R	O	O	F		T	O	L	T		R	C		R	R	B
C	E	L		T	O	E	A	F	U	L	A	A		I	E	V	I	I	A
T	E	R	P	T	T	M	N	S	I	T	O	T	A	T	S	H	B	L	T
L	I	R	I	S	H	A	E	F	T	R	S	Y	R	T	O	R	E	E	D

									■			■		■					
■			■				■						■						
		■						■					■			■			
			■										■			■			
			■					■			■							■	■

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the actors who have played Santa listed below in the grid? Words may read forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

G	B	C	P	P	O	N	E	R	O	M	S	A	I	L	E	E	S	O	J	E	B	T	E	Z
R	I	C	K	Y	T	O	M	L	I	N	S	O	N	S	P	Y	B	U	G	E	F	D	H	L
S	V	E	V	J	R	W	O	N	F	C	L	X	N	E	R	H	N	Q	A	M	I	T	C	R
L	O	C	T	C	X	R	G	E	O	R	G	E	B	U	Z	A	W	U	Z	V	I	K	N	E
J	A	M	E	S	E	A	R	L	J	O	N	E	S	C	Y	P	B	L	O	M	T	Y	I	H
L	B	E	H	Y	I	P	A	U	K	J	Z	P	Y	L	H	R	N	R	S	F	J	M	W	G
L	S	H	T	I	F	F	I	R	G	D	R	A	H	C	I	R	Y	L	D	P	E	N	D	U
O	K	U	R	T	R	U	S	S	E	L	L	P	D	D	J	E	A	K	M	L	E	O	L	O
Y	N	O	U	S	H	P	A	F	N	R	T	H	G	X	O	H	N	K	G	P	T	T	A	R
D	L	F	B	I	L	L	G	O	L	D	B	E	R	G	H	R	Y	I	N	L	N	E	B	O
B	P	Q	O	S	Y	V	I	N	A	U	S	V	R	A	N	W	B	T	E	R	O	L	C	B
R	R	E	N	T	A	H	S	M	A	I	L	L	I	W	G	S	A	N	Y	L	T	D	E	N
I	O	M	J	I	E	L	A	E	S	S	A	L	G	U	O	D	N	E	S	I	S	N	L	E
D	N	I	P	M	C	Z	E	R	F	K	J	L	K	N	O	S	R	B	E	O	N	E	A	T
G	E	C	F	A	P	Z	E	A	T	E	N	J	P	H	D	B	A	D	M	Y	A	P	N	T
E	U	K	B	L	D	F	U	D	D	C	D	A	U	N	M	Q	P	A	A	F	R	N	Q	A
S	K	E	P	L	J	T	G	M	Y	P	A	M	H	N	A	M	T	O	J	I	C	I	S	D
G	R	Y	O	E	A	O	U	M	A	L	E	R	Q	M	N	J	R	R	N	L	N	T	Q	R
M	B	R	I	N	X	N	H	U	P	C	C	K	N	P	O	R	E	B	I	Y	A	S	K	A
A	H	O	L	A	D	L	L	N	R	S	K	Y	F	E	S	T	B	M	V	O	Y	U	M	H
R	U	O	B	G	V	F	I	O	C	P	A	U	D	S	Y	A	H	I	E	O	R	A	B	C
U	U	N	W	H	R	I	N	I	W	A	C	M	G	N	Q	U	O	J	K	H	B	H	I	I
Y	B	E	N	E	O	Y	S	W	S	Z	L	E	D	W	A	R	D	A	S	N	E	R	X	R
B	N	Y	E	A	N	L	X	G	O	K	O	L	A	X	L	A	T	T	I	A	M	W	U	Y
N	I	S	C	N	T	Z	T	D	A	V	I	D	H	U	D	D	L	E	S	T	O	N	Y	H

ALEC BALDWIN
ANDY CLYDE
ART CARNEY
AUSTIN PENDLETON
BEAU BRIDGES
BERT PARNABY
BILL GOLDBERG
BOB HOLT
BRYAN CRANSTON
DAVID HUDDLESTON
DOUGLAS SEALE
ED IVORY
EDMUND GWENN
EDWARD ASNER
GEORGE BUZA
HAL SMITH
HUME CRONYN
JAMES EARL JONES
JIM BROADBENT
JOHN CALL
JOHN GOODMAN
JOSE ELIAS MORENO
KEVIN JAMES
KURT RUSSELL
LESLIE NIELSEN
LLOYD BRIDGES
MEL GIBSON
MICKEY ROONEY
PAUL FREES
RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH
RICHARD GRIFFITHS
RICKY TOMLINSON
TIM ALLEN
TOM HANKS
WILLIAM SHATNER

kids' christmas puzzles

WORDSEARCH

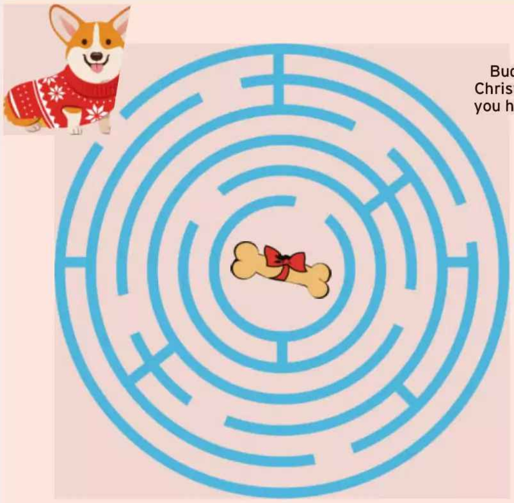
The following things associated with winter can all be found in the grid going any way, including diagonals.

U
L Q D
F U T E K
S N O W M A N
C S U
T H T L S
I O I D T E T
I J B L N R S E G
S E V O L G O A N T N
C G Y R A I Z
C P G F O I E E Z
V O D A R K N E S S I
O P A E N S L E D G E S L
O I K T H E R M A L S E B D B
I B A
C D V
E C C

BLIZZARD
CHILLY
COAT
COLD
DARKNESS
FLU
FROST
GLOVES
ICE
SKIING
SLEDGE
SLEET
SNOWMAN
THERMALS
TOBOGGAN

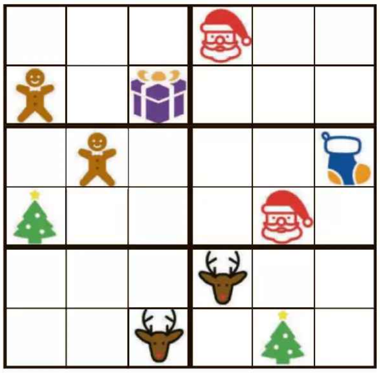
MAZE

Buddy has lost his Christmas bone, can you help him find it?



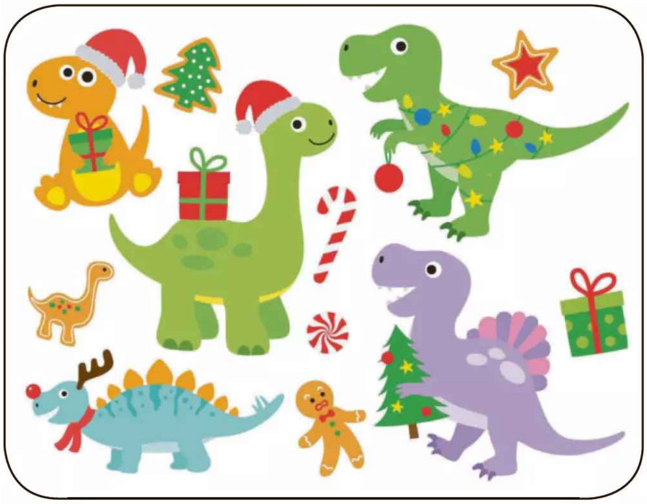
MINI SUDOKU

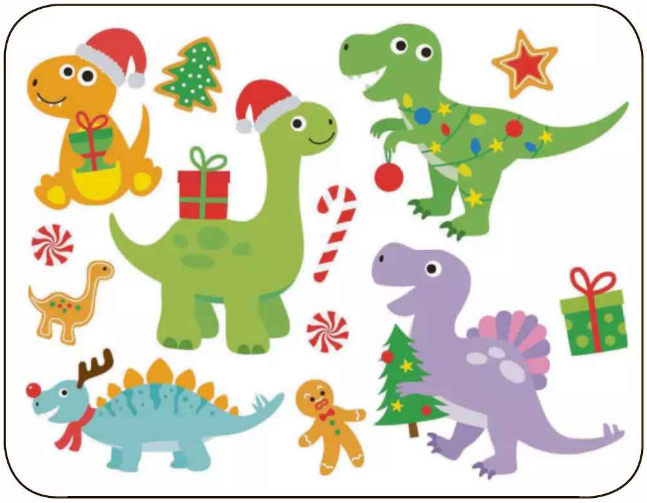
Fill in all the empty squares so that each row, column and each 3x2 square contains all six festive symbols.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

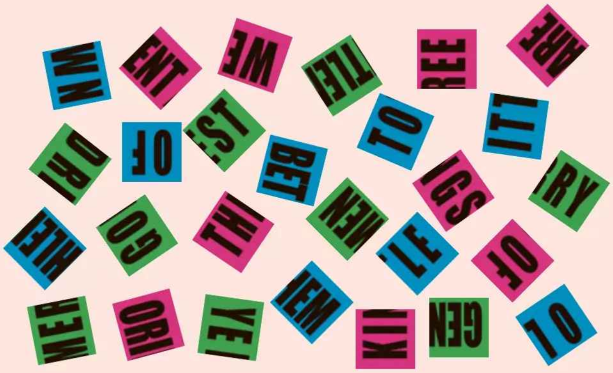
Can you spot five differences between these two pictures?





MIXED MESSAGES

Rearrange these fragments to reveal the titles of three Christmas carols.



festive puzzles special

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9

			8	5	9	4		2
	8	2				3		
	5			4			6	8
2			9		8			6
3		8				2		7
1			5		7			9
8	3			1			2	
		4				9	7	
6		7	4	9	2			

BATTLESHIPS

Find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

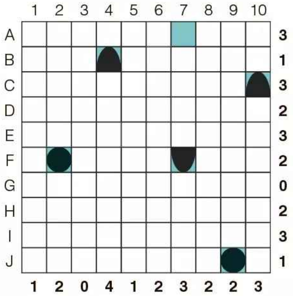
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship

2 x Cruiser

3 x Destroyer

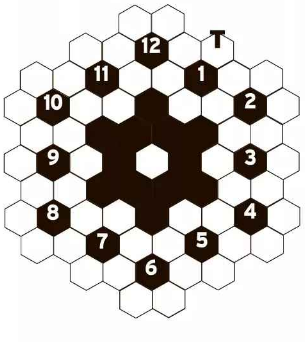
4 x Submarine



HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1 Fortresses
2 Marsupial
3 Sampler
4 Company
5 Forceful
6 House of god
7 Pastel
8 Shellfish
9 Refresh
10 Winner
11 Large wave
12 Transmits



SOLUTIONS

NEW YEAR CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Dame, 4 Exact, 7 Smoke, 10 Adam, 12 Valid, 14 Dry, 15 Angel, 17 Mined, 20 Legal, 21 Vice, 23 Decorations, 24 Tree, 26 Fable, 27 Cards, 28 Noel, 29 Adage, 30 Weigh, 31 Gift, 32 Saint, 37 Spent, 39 Redbreast, 42 Green, 43 Yule, 44 Zion, 45 Stars, 48 Shopper, 52 Baubles, 53 Ogre, 55 Race, 57 Rudolph, 60 Easter, 62 Skier, 63 Poured, 65 Iceni, 67 Alice, 68 Amiss, 69 Manx cat, 70 Royal, 72 Tulip, 73 Extra, 75 Funnel, 77 Scrap, 78 Tinsel, 83 Scrooge, 84 Idea, 85 Easy, 87 Scrumpy, 88 Blessed, 90 Needy, 91 Hail, 92 Mush, 94 Brood, 95 Bethlehem, 99 Dates, 102 Punch, 104 Lute, 105 Train, 106 Amend, 107 Magi, 108 Scare, 110 Genie, 111 Dick, 113 Whittington, 114 Lamp, 115 Sprig, 117 Event, 119 Venus, 120 Ace, 121 Manna, 122 Espy, 123 Stays, 124 Knife, 125 Toys

Down: 2 Ali Baba, 3 Eve, 4 Edge, 5 Calendar, 6 Bread, 8 Midnight, 9 East, 10 Ale, 11 Aladdin, 13 Advent, 16 Elects, 18 Forged, 19 Cinema, 22 Cherry, 25 Raisin, 33 Ice-cube, 34 Cello, 35 Crop, 36 White, 38 Enabled, 40 Easel, 41 Sorry, 42 Gobble, 46 School, 47 Zest, 49 Old King Cole, 50 Paper chains, 51 Tutu, 54 Greenland, 56 Christmas, 58 Bristle, 59 Operate, 61 Simon, 64 Reaps, 66 Imp, 67 Ate, 71 Season, 74 Played, 75 Forfeit, 76 Nigh, 79 Nice, 80 Lampoon, 81 Cable, 82 Wedge, 84 Icing, 86 Young, 89 Salt, 91 Hectic, 93 Havana, 95 Birthday, 96 Twists, 97 Homage, 98 Mandolin, 100 Accepts, 101 Sledge, 102 Pigpen, 103 Chimney, 109 Mince, 112 Kiss, 114 Lime, 116 Ivy, 118 Vat

WORD LADDER

One possible answer is: Free, Flee, Flew, Flow, Glow, Grow, Grog

ANAGRAMS

Skeleton, Ice hockey, Alpine skiing, Figure skating, Snowboarding

NINER

DEPLORING

SHAPES

11

MIRROR IMAGE

C

NETS

B

SUMTHING

9x4=36, 3x5=15, 3x9=27

NUMBER JIG

5248

30-SECOND MATHS

Beginner 17, Intermediate 8, Advanced 53

REASONING

1 Shona emerald, Sam ruby, Sue topaz, Sally sapphire

2 Jim red spinner, Fred pink stickers, Ken white bubbles, Sam blue yo-yo

EVENS

5312
8976
7124
9768

DICE GAME

3 and 6

LOST FOR WORDS

Leisure, Petunia, Strontium

CONCENTRATION

1: 11, 2: 2, 3: 3

MINDBENDERS

1 Six mince pies

2 8.48 am

3 15 times

4 36 items

ALPHABET SOUP

Balaclava, Fleece, Gilet, Jumper, Scarf

PICTURE THIS

1 Nat King Cole, **2** Boney M, **3** Aled Jones

QUOTE DOWN

"Christmas to a child is the first terrible proof that to travel hopefully is better than to arrive"

MIXED MESSAGES

O, Little Town Of Bethlehem

We Three Kings Of Orient Are

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

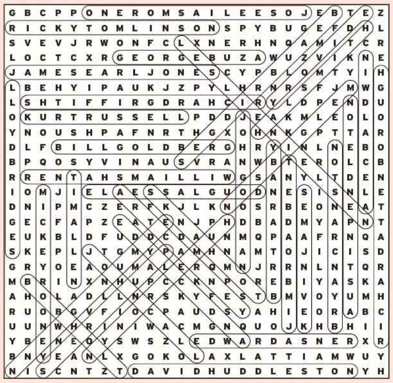
HONEYCOMB

1 Towers, 2 Wombat, 3 Taster, 4 Troupe, 5 Punchy, 6 Church, 7 Crayon, 8 Oyster, 9 Revive, 10 Victor, 11 Roller, 12 Relays

LOGIC

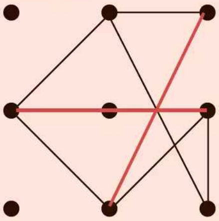
Toy	Cost	Fun factor	Size
Robot Panda	£17	5	97cm
Slime Attack	£16	7	10cm
Stretchy Duck	£18	6	45cm
Giant Whistle	£14	0	68cm
Lava Ball	£20	2	101cm

WORDSEARCH

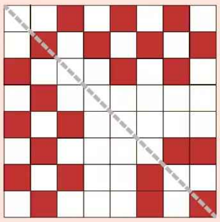


G B C P P O N E R O M S A I L E E S O J E B T E Z
R I C K Y T O M L I N S O N S P Y B U G E F D H L
S V E V J R W O N F C L X N E R H N Q A M I T C R
L O C T C X R G E O R G E B U Z A W U Z V I K N E
J A M E S E A R L J O N E S C Y P B L O M T Y I H
L B E H Y I P A U K J Z P Y L H R N R S F J M W G
L S H T I F F I R G D R A H C I R Y L D P E N D U
O K U R T R U S S E L L P D D J E A K M L E O L O
Y N O U S H P A F N R T H G X O H N K G P T T A R
D L F B I L L G O L D B E R G H R Y I N L N E B O
B P Q O S Y V I N A U S V R A N W B T E R O L C B
R R E N T A H S M A I L L I W G S A N Y L T D E N
I O M J I E L A E S S A L G U O D N E S I S N L E
D N I P M C Z E R F K J L K N O S R B E O N E A T
G E C F A P Z E A T E N J P H D B A D M Y A P N T
E U K B L D F U D D C D A U N M Q P A A F R N Q A
S K E P L J T G M Y P A M H N A M T O J I C I S D
G R Y O E A O U M A L E R Q M N J R R N L N T Q R
M B R I N X N H U P C C K N P O R E B I Y A S K A
A H O L A D L L N R S K Y F E S T B M V O Y U M H
R U O B G V F I O C P A U D S Y A H I E O R A B C
U U N W H R I N I W A C M G N Q U O J K H B H I I
Y B E N E O Y S W S Z L E D W A R D A S N E R X R
B N Y E A N L X G O K O L A X L A T T I A M W U Y
N I S C N T Z T D A V I D H U D D L E S T O N Y H

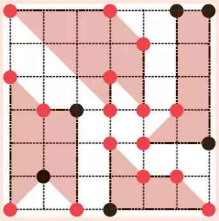
TRIANGLE



SYMMETRY



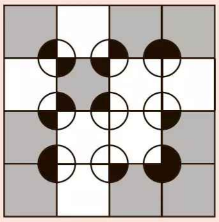
DANGO



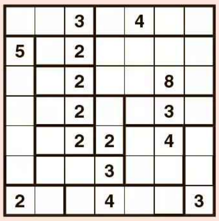
SUDOKU

7	6	3	8	5	9	4	1	2
4	8	2	6	7	1	3	9	5
9	5	1	2	4	3	7	6	8
2	7	5	9	3	8	1	4	6
3	9	8	1	6	4	2	5	7
1	4	6	5	2	7	8	3	9
8	3	9	7	1	5	6	2	4
5	2	4	3	8	6	9	7	1
6	1	7	4	9	2	5	8	3

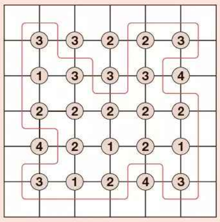
SEKI



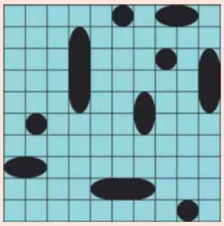
CELLS



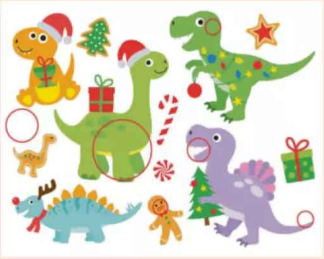
LOOP



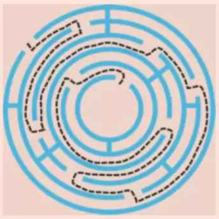
BATTLESHIPS



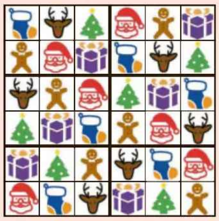
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



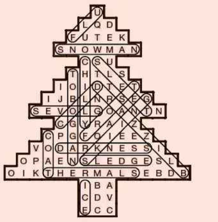
MAZE



MINI SUDOKU



KIDS' WORDSEARCH



BIG PICTURE